STARS STRIPES.



Ashcroft praises Britain for foiling serious terror plots

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Johnson on verge of trade to Yankees

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Volume 63. No. 245

e ee 2004

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2004

Brokerage firm catering to troops must pay \$12M fine

Watchdog group setting up Web page to help with refunds



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Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Cherry conviction: A state appeals court Friday refused to vacate the murder conviction of ex-Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry in the deaths of four black girls in a 1963 church bombing in Bir-

An attorney for Cherry, who died at a prison hospital last month at the age of 74, heads asked the Court of Criminal Appeals to vacate the conviction under an Alabama law that allows such action if a defendant dies while a conviction is being appealed.

The appeals court rejected the motion, saying it had already ruled against Cherry's appeal and that the law vacating convictions with the death of a defendant does not apply.

Human smuggling trial: In the months after 19 illegal immigrants died in a sweltering trailer during a border crossing, authorities have brought three people to trial for their involvement in the smuggling ring they say caused the tragedy.

By the time the jury began deliberating the case Thursday, there were only two.

After the prosecution rested its case, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore dismissed charges against Claudia Carrizales de Villa, saying prosecutors had not proven she had profited from a restaurant that authorities said was a sham business intended to feed border crossers.

Gilmore rejected dismissal requests from the attorneys of Victor Jesus Rodriguez and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar, who face 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants and could receive life in prison if convicted.

Maryland fires arrest: A security guard accused of burning down homes at the suburban Washington housing development where he worked told investigators he was upset his employer did not show enough sympathy after his infant son died this year.

Aaron L. Speed, 21, who worked for Security Services of America, told police he left his job from August to October because of SSA's "indifference to the death of his infant son." according to court papers.

When asked by investigators who might have started the fire, Speed said: "Someone who works at the site and recently experienced a great loss."

Louima abuser speaks out: Justin Volpe, the former New York City patrolman who shocked the city seven years ago by torturing a prisoner with a broken broomstick, says he feels sorry for Iraqis held at the notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

The musings of Volpe — serving a 30-year sentence for attacking Abner Louima inside a Brooklyn police station — are featured in the upcoming issue of GQ magazine. The profile of Volpe is culled from his letters, journals and exchanges with visitors. He's barred from giving interviews.

"I feel for those prisoners at Abu Ghraib," Volpe, 32, told his father. "They're human beings." His sympathy extends to the soldiers accused of abusing prisoners as well. "They went over there to serve, they stepped over the line...," he said. "I feel for both sides. It's a tragedy."

Wash, governor ballot recount: King County election worker Ryan Aumoeualogo carries a box of recounted ballots Thursday in Tukwilla, Wash., where ballot boxes continue to pile up at the King County recount headquarters. Republicans announced plans Thursday morning to sue King County over 573 newly discovered ballots that could change the outcome of the closest governor's race in Washington state history.

AIDS drug investigation: The Rev. Jesse Jackson called for a congressional investigation into reports that U.S. health officials withheld research from the White House that showed an AIDS drug distributed to hundreds of thousands of Africans posed serious risks.

He also said the U.S. government should immediately halt the drug's distribution in

The Associated Press reported Monday that the National Institutes of Health knew about problems with the drug, nevirapine, as early as 2002, but did not tell the White House before President Bush launched a plan that summer to distribute the drug throughout Africa.

World

Pinochet appeal delay: A court on Friday postponed until next week a decision on whether to uphold the indictment and house arrest of former dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet

Pinochet was indicted Monday by Judge Juan Guzman for the kidnapping of nine dissidents and the killing of one of them during his 1973-90 regime. Guzman said he was certain the 89-year-old retired general was competent to stand trial.

Defense lawyer Pablo Rodriguez on Friday argued again that Pinochet was unfit for trial because of health problems including mild dementia, diabetes and arthritis.

The indictment is the third attempt to try Pinochet for human rights violations during his regime. In 2001 Pinochet was indicted in a different case but the Supreme Court dropped the charges on health grounds.

Yushchenko poisoning: Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was poisoned by TCDD, the most harmful known form of dioxin, the scientist who conducted tests on the presidential candidate's blood said Friday.

Abraham Brouwer, professor of environmental toxicology at the Free University in Amsterdam, said that the dioxin was TCDD, chemically known as tetrachlorodibenzoparadioxin

TCDD is produced inadvertently during manufacturing processes that use chlorine, such as paper and pulp bleaching. It is also produced by incinerators and usually ends up mixed with other dioxins produced by the same processes.

However, the tests conducted by Brouwer at BioDetection Systems in Amsterdam found Yushchenko was poisoned with pure TCDD, not a mixutre.

That rules out many sources, such as an incinerator or factory.

Gadhafi presidential comments: Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi says his decision to abandon nuclear weapons helped President Bush get re-elected.

In an interview airing Friday on Italy's RAI TV, Ghadafi said the U.S. presidential election was America's way of rewarding Tripoli for renouncing the nuclear program.

Gadhafi renounced the weapons program last year, a turnaround that ended Libya's international isolation. In turn, the United States lifted most of its commercial sanctions, as did the European Union. The EU also eased an arms embargo.

War crimes coméction: An appeals chamber at the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on Friday confirmed the conviction and 25-year sentence of a regional Bosnian Croat politican for an ethnic cleansing campaign against Muslim civilians in central Bosnia.

It upheld part of the conviction of a second defendant, but reduced his sentence to six from 15 years. Mario Cerkez, a military commander, was released two weeks ago in anticipation of the lighter sentence.

Judge Wolfgang Schomburg said the panel of five appeals judges found chief defendant Dario Kordic had played a key role in a plan in 1993 "to kill military-aged men, expel civilians and destroy houses."

Stories and photo from wire services

Clarification

A caption in Thursday's edition accompanying two photos of children caroling at H.D. Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany, omitted their names. The top photo showed Julia Navarro, left, and Audrey Antonio. The bottom photo showed, from left, Anthony Fleming, Anthony Hall and Julia Navarro. Comics, horoscopes and advice every day in Stars and Stripes

Guard apparently kills self in office

By JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

DARMSTADT, Germany - A Pond Security Service guard was found dead of an apparent gunshot wound in a small office in the Lincoln Village housing area early Wednesday.

Post authorities are not releasing any specific details of the death. However, the Darmstadt city police handling the case said it was a definite suicide.

Teri Viedt, the 233rd Base Support Battalion spokeswoman, wrote in an e-mail message Friday that the body of a 44-year-old male was found by another guard in Annex 4493, a Pond's office, at about 6:15 a.m. She believes the shot was fired 20 to 30 minutes before the body was found.

The guard, whose name was not released came from Eritrea a state in eastern Africa. German authorities said they do not provide details of suicides done in private and would not release any further information.

Pond officials were not available for comment Friday after-

The Pond Security Service is a civilian contractor hired to guard gates of U.S. Army installations throughout Germany

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoi@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Breaking new ground in Afghanistan



LINITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Comedian Robin Williams, second from left, takes part Thursday in a ground-breaking ceremony for a USO center named in honor of Pat Tillman at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Next to Williams, from left, are NFI. Hall of Famer John Elway, model Leeann Tweeden, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard B. Myers, and USO President/CEO Ned Powell. The center will honor Tillman, the former Arizona Cardinals star who left the NFL to join the Army Rangers and was killed in action in Afghanistan earlier this year.

Military cracks down on U.K. gas coupons

BY WARD SANDERSON Stars and Strines

The United States is cracking down on gas coupon sales in Britain

As of this month, only sponsors - military members and employees, as opposed to family members - can buy the dis count coupons. And they can only be used to buy 50 liters' worth of fuel per week to be used for "duty driving," such as to and from work. Holiday trips are definitely out.

Apparently, the change is more one of enforcing old rules than it is a whole new idea.

Capt. Heather Healy, spokes-woman for the 3rd Air Force, called it "a reinforcement of a policy that was already in place." She said teenagers and others had been buying the gas counons, which allow Americans to buy tax-free gas at stations off

"The change was that only entitled people can buy them, Healy said.

It's a bit complicated: The coupons are sold by the Army and Air Force Eychange Service at air bases, but the program is administered by the Navy. And the

authority asking for the crack-down is actually the British gov-

"Her Majesty's Customs and Excise Service wants users to understand that tax-free gasoline in the U.K. is a privilege, not a right," said an AAFES news re-

Debbie Byerly, an AAFES spokeswoman, said many of the details of the arrangement with

the United Kingdom were news to officials involved with the cou-"We didn't know a lot of that

stuff," she said. An Air Force legal officer said coupon policing is necessary to

keep the coupons available at all. "In order to preserve the availability of these coupons through AAFES for official use, entitled personnel must ensure that coupons are purchased and used strictly for authorized duty driving purposes," said Maj. Robert Cottrell of the 3rd Air Force's legal office, in a prepared statement

"... Failure to control and oversee the use of such privileges can result in additional HMCE oversight and possibly loss of such

F-mail Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil

privileges

NFL stars visit wounded troops at Landstuhl



Sgt. Charles Sheely of the 3rd Rattalion, 1st Marines accepts an autographed football from NFL Hall of Famer and former Oakland Raider Mike Haynes while telling him about fighting in Fallujah, Iraq. Several former members of the NFI visited with patients at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on Wednesday.

TODD GOODMAN/U.S. Army

NSGA Naples decommissioned in closed-door ceremony

BY JASON CHUDY Stare and Strings

Naval Security Group Activity Naples, Italy, held its decommissioning ceremony Friday in the same manner it operated for the past 25 years - behind locked doors.

The Navy cryptology command, which provided, among other things, "special intelligence," according to a brief, unclassified history of the Naples unit, has ceased operations and will close officially March 31, 2005.

Most of the 100 or so personnel still

working in the windowless Command Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence building at the Capodichino base will transfer back to the United States as the Navy shifts some of its security functions from overseas bases

"There's certainly a worldwide shift of naval security group activities from larg-er numbers of smaller detachments to a smaller number of larger detachments, balanced between the U.S. and abroad," said John Schindler, Naval Security Group command historian and public affairs officer.

Schindler wouldn't specify plans for the closure of any other of their European facilities, although NSGA Rota, Spain, is expected to close down in 2005. An NSG detachment in London closed on Sept. 30, according to Navy records.

With the Naples closure, and Rota's ending shutdown, the only large-scale NSGA will be in Bahrain.

Schindler said that all these changes are being done in line with other major changes to naval forces in Europe.

"NSG is transforming itself, in every sense, in line with Navy transformation,

"Our shifts of personnel and facilities are to better serve the fleet, and national security as well. It's about more effective use of scarce manpower."

Smaller NSG detachments will remain in Europe and the Middle East, however, including one in Griesheim, Germany, that recently moved from Bad Aibling; three in England: and another on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.estripes.c

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpot

Stateside housing allowances to rise

onthly housing allowances for 910,000 servicemembers living off base in the United States will climb by an average of 8 percent effective Jan. 1, say Defense Department officials.

The rise in individual rates, however, will vary significantly, from no change for some grades in some areas to as much as 20 percent to 30 percent for military renters in high-cost areas such as Hawaii

Revised BAH rates have no direct impact on servicemembers living off base overseas. They get an Overseas Housing Allowance which is adjusted in the spring and fall each year to reflect changes in out-of-pocket costs for stateside peers and changes in the dollar's value relative to local currency.

The 2005 Basic Allowance for Housing rates not only will keep For 2005 BAH rates at more stateside locations, see the online version of this column at www.stripes.com

pace with an average 4.4 percent rise in rental costs nationwide over last year but also are high enough to close a remaining 3.5 percent gap between 2004 BAH and median rental expenses nationwide.

BAH recipients will enjoy a fifth and final "above-inflation" annual adjustment that since the year 2000 has eliminated a 22 percent disparity between stateside allowances and rental costs reported in housing surveys.

housing surveys.

With the new rates, said Tim
Fowlkes, director of BAH for the
Defense Department, out-of-pocket costs for stateside renters will
fall to zero, assuming they rent at
the local median cost for the type
of housing deemed appropriate to
their pay grade.

"If they choose to rent above the median rent, then they would have some out-of-pocket costs," Fowlkes said. "Likewise, if they choose to rent below the median, they would actually have some extra" cash to pocket.

The chart shows 2005 rates for U.S. locations with large populations of servicemembers. Rates for all areas can be found online at: https://secureapp2.hqda.

pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html BAH rates are set so that servicemembers of equal rank and with the same dependency states have equal purchasing power to rent housing, regardless of where they are assigned. The tax-free allowance is to cover not only median rental costs locally but average utility expenses — electricity, heat and water — and renter's insurance.

Total BAH payments in 2005 will reach \$12.5 abilion, up \$2.5 billion, or \$25 persent, from 2004. An additional \$9.000 members will qualify. Some of that growth, Fowlkes said, results from mobilized Reserve and National Guard members who are eligible to draw BAH while activated. Their BAH typically is based on where their families reside while they are deployed.

Also, he said, thousands more active duty families are eligible for BAH this year due to housing privatization, a program to move families out of aging military units and into new or renovated private sector housing with developers agreeing to set rent equal to members' monthly BAH.

Stateside, BAH is paid both to military homeowners and renters but the allowance is based on rental costs alone, avoiding the complex financial experience of homebuyers who can claim tax breaks on mortgage payments and often realize capital gains on the sale of their homes.

ried and thus receive BAH at the higher "with dependents" rate. A sampling of nationwide averages shows with-dependents BAH rising in 2005 by \$47 a month for grades E-1 through E-4, \$60 a month for E-8s, \$63 for O-3s and \$83 for O-5s.

Most BAH recipients are mar-

For a complete list of BAH rates and more on the topic, go to

www.stripes.com.
To comment, write Military Update, P.O.
Box 231111, Centreville, VA 20120-1111,
e-mall milupdate@aol.com or visit

A sample of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates as of Jan. 1, 2005

						•			,						
BASES	EGLIN AFB, FL		FORT BRAGG/ POPE AFB, NC		HAMPTON/ NEWPORT NEWS, VA		FORT	FORT RILEY, KS		FT HOOD, TX		PENSACOLA, FL		HONOLULU, HI	
dependents	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	without	with	withou	
E-1	\$770	\$670	\$809	\$654	\$910	\$759	\$779	\$535	\$775	\$640	\$784	\$609	\$1698	\$1161	
E-2	770	670	809	654	910	759	779	535	775	640	784	609	1698	1161	
E-3	770	670	809	654	910	759	779	535	775	640	784	609	1698	1161	
E-4	770	670	809	654	910	759	779	535	775	640	784	609	1698	1161	
E-5	820	704	846	733	960	828	844	656	840	754	836	692	1773	1472	
E-6	1071	727	957	777	1005	868	941	724	941	821	937	739	1922	1633	
E-7	1115	773	985	812	1091	914	959	784	988	896	974	788	2089	1703	
E-8	1164	869	1017	868	1186	969	979	863	1039	994	1015	856	2274	1802	
E-9	1239	947	1094	902	1285	983	1020	893	1090	1030	1064	887	2496	1849	
W-1	1072	751	957	795	1006	892	941	755	942	860	938	764	1925	1670	
W-2	1135	868	998	867	1130	969	967	863	1009	994	991	855	2165	1802	
W-3	1194	955	1036	906	1245	984	991	896	1071	1034	1040	890	2388	1853	
W-4	1256	1082	1116	964	1300	1027	1031	945	1098	1102	1073	946	2538	1964	
W-5	1327	1126	1209	992	1365	1112	1078	963	1128	1157	1112	983	2711	2130	
0-1E	1125	820	992	846	1110	960	963	844	998	971	982	836	2126	1773	
O-2E	1185	930	1030	895	1228	980	987	886	1062	1022	1033	880	2355	1838	
0-3E	1267	1071	1131	957	1310	1005	1039	941	1102	1088	1079	937	2565	1922	
0-1	849	720	859	772	965	861	855	715	851	810	847	732	1790	1623	
0-2	1065	803	954	833	1004	943	939	822	939	943	935	818	1919	1747	
O-3	1192	981	1035	917	1241	989	990	906	1069	1046	1038	901	2380	1868	
O-4	1357	1120	1248	988	1392	1100	1098	961	1141	1149	1128	978	2784	2107	
O-5	1473	1149	1399	1007	1496	1157	1174	973	1191	1186	1209	1002	3066	2218	
O-6	1485	1194	1411	1036	1508	1245	1184	991	1201	1242	1219	1040	3091	2388	
0-7	1502	1218	1427	1057	1526	1270	1197	1011	1215	1267	1233	1061	3127	2436	

Source: Department of Defense

Stars and Stripes

U.S. forces close latest chapter in French military cooperation

BY JAMEY KEATEN

The Associated Press

PARIS — The Yanks are leaving — and many French didn't even realize they were here.

The last U.S. military contingent in France said adieu to the country on Friday with a fittingly low-key ceremony. With European forces taking over peacekeeping Bosnia, the Americans are being redeployed elsewhere, thus ending a chapter of unsung cooperation between Paris and Washinston.

Little known even to some experts, the

774th Expeditionary Air Base Group of about 100 airmen wrapped up its decade-long mission at a huge air base in the balmy Mediterranean town of Istres.

The pullout had nothing to do with trans-Atlantic squabbling that erupted over the U.S.-led war in Iraq, but with the end of a NATO peacekeeping role in Bosnia earlier this month, officials said.

"There's nothing symbolic about it," said military expert Etienne de Durand of the French Institute of International Relations in Paris. "This is mainly a technical maneuver." French-American relations frayed in the run-up to the Iraq war, when President Jacques Chirac led international opposition to the U.S.-led campaign to oust Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein.

Col. Joe Abbott, who oversees U.S. Air Force operations in Istres from Aviano Air Base in Italy, said bonds between the French and American air forces transcend any political discord.

"Political disagreements come and go, but our alliance is stronger than that," he said. "Our relationship with the French air force is something that's been very stable and dependable." The force, made up mainly of reservists and Air National Guard airmen, will return home and could face redeployment in a less cushy location — possibly Iraq, Abbott said. They are the last large-scale American military force remaining in France, he said.

To many, the mere presence of U.S. forces on French soil these days may have appeared strange. But since 1994, 1stres had served as a launch pad for U.S. KC-13S air-borne refueling planes supporting NATO jets enforcing a no-fly zone and some U2 spy planes over the Balkans.

That mission continued quietly in the

background of the sharp decline in French-American ties.

Brokerage firm agrees to \$12 million fine

First Command accused of lying about investment fees, returns; most customers are troops

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A brokerage firm that caters almost exclusively to military personnel agreed this week to pay a \$12 million fine to settle claims it misled customers about their investment fees and re-

First Command Financial Planning will refund about \$4\text{ million to certain customers who bought mutual funds from the firm between 1999 and this year, in a settlement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers, the brokerage industry's self-policing organization ground and the National Association of Securities Dealers, the brokerage industry's self-policing organization.

The remainder of the fine will go into a military education fund run by NASD, according to the association's head of enforcement, Barry Goldsmith.

The firm's customer base includes over 297,000 current and former military families. According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of the current active-duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

The company employs about 1,000 sales agents — mostly retired military officers

Seeking restitution

Servicemembers and families who feel they may be entitled to a refund as part of this settlement are urged to go to www.nasd.com beginning Saturday morning. "There will be a First Command investor restitution page on the Web site." accord-

ing to National Association of Securities Dealers spokeswoman Sarah Bohn. "It will clearly state who is eligible, what you should do, when restitution will be available, and what ortions will be made available to investors who are not eligible."

Wayne M. Secore, a lawyer with Secore and Waller, Llp., a Dallas-based law firm, will administer the restitution program.

Anyone who is having problems with the Web site can call him at (972) 776-0200.

The NASD Foundation will also be developing plans to educate investors, as part of the settlement, but plans have not been finalized for how that will work, Bohn said.

Patrick J Dickson

for two years.

— in some 200 branch offices near military bases in the United States and several foreign countries, including Germany, England. Spain and Italy.

United States and several foreign countries. A statement from the company noted that the settlement did not involve any of the firm's life insurance policies or banking services, and only involved how investment plans were sold, not concerns over the mutual funds themselves. The company neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

Before the settlement, First Command had announced it would stop offering its systematic investment plans, the focus of the investigation. In addition to the fine, the firm will also have all of its advertising preapproved by an independent consultant

Goldsmith said sales agents for the broker dealer misled customers in saying their high up-front costs of the funds — in some cases 50 percent of the money being invested — encouraged clients to stay in the plan because they would face large losses at first, which would diminish over time. Company data showed otherwise.

Agents also said the systematic investments had lower long-term costs than other mutual funds. Goldsmith said in many cases the opposite is true, and clients didn't fully understand the fees associated

with First Command's plans.
"We found it very troublesome that the people who were sold these plans had a lot on their minds and were not given all the appropriate information," he said. "And the median age of their investors was 25, which meant [First Command agents] were dealing with people without much in-

vesting background."

The investigation also resulted in a \$25,000 fine and a 30-day suspension for First Command district supervisor James Provo, based in Charleston, S.C., who responded to a Ari Force officer's e-mail complaint about the company by telling the officer that he could lose a permanent change of station assignment and informing his squadron commander that the company might file a grievance against the officer.

Payouts will be available only to First Command clients who purchased and ended their investment plans within the last six years. Goldsmith said customers with active plans can try to recoup their losses through arbitration, and in light of the settlement he expects many clients to do so.

For more information: www.nasdfoundation.org,

Army Guard triples bonuses for re-enlisting

Overseas troops will receive tax-free bonuses; new recruits to get an increase

BY LEO SHANE III

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army National Guard has tripled re-enlistment bonuses and increased new enlistment bonuses by 67 percent in an effort to boost its ranks, Pentagon officials announced this

At a press conference on Thursday Lt. Gen. Steven Blum said the Army Guard has fallen short of recruiting over the past



Jacqueline Conforme counts change to stock up on vending machine goods before departing for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

two months, largely due to troubles in Iraq. Officials hope the bonus increases will entice more new recruits, and retain more of the Guard's 360,000 current members.

The Guard has had a particularly difficult time recruiting active-duty soldiers into its ranks. Stripes reported in November that just more than half of the 7,000 active-duty soldiers that the Guard sought to transition into its ranks did so in fiscal

As of Dec. 14 bonuses jumped from \$5,000 to \$15,000, for current servicemembers who re-enlist for six years. For those who are currently serving abroad, that money will be tax-free.

For new recruits, the signing bonus will grow from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

Mark Allen, spokesman for the Guard, said the new figures bring the bonuses more in line with those offered by the Army, which is especially important for Guard members serving abroad.

"What do you say to a guy who is serving in Iraq and is seeing an active-duty guy earning more in bonuses than he is?" Allen asked. "We haven't changed these for many years. This will give more equity to our people there."

Bonuses for active-duty Army recruits and re-enlistees depend on individual's rank, specialties and length of service. Allen said the Guard's bonus structure will apply to everyone who joins.

National Guard officials have said they expect the total number of reservists and guardsmen on active duty in the war on terrorism to remain above 100,000 for the next two years.

Department of Defense officials estimate Army Reserve soldiers make up about 40 percent of the 148,000 troops in Iraq



AP pho

Stefanie Pabon, left, and her twin sister, Darlene, of Manchester, N.J., both with the 119th Combat Support Battalion of the N.J. Army National Guard, depart Tuesday for deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from Fort Dix, N.J.

The issue was raised Thursday by Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the head of the National Guard, who said that the Guard needs \$20 billion in new weapons and equipment over the next three years to continue to meet all its overseas and homeland commitments.

Blum warned that the reserve force "will be broken and not ready the next time it's needed, either at home or for war."

His remarks came as the Bush administration is preparing to submit an emergency spending plan totaling more than \$80 billion to cover war costs and remedy equipment shortages throughout the military. Guard officials have asked that \$7 billion of the supplemental be earmarked for their troops, and they intend to seek an addition-

al \$13 billion in later budget requests.
"This has got to be addressed now," he said of the Guard's weakened condition.
"The need for this money can't fall through

The \$20 billion request represents a huge increase over the \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion a year in new equipment that the Guard has received in recent years. Blum said the funds would go toward a wide range of purchases, including aircraft, vehicles. radios and wearous.

The Washington Post contributed to this report. E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

the cracks and be an afterthought."

81st BCT's raids keep fellow soldiers safe

Guard unit snuffs out insurgent activity in Iraq

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

AL SHAHABI, Iraq — Using the pre-dawn darkness as cover, about 50 soldiers from the 81st Brigade Combat Team on Friday took into custody five men believed to be behind the mortar attacks and roadside bombs that make life dangerous in and around nearby Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, part of the 81st BCT's Task Force Tacoma, grabbed three of the men in two separate raids. No shots were fired and no one was hurt in the raid.
"It was routine," said Sgt. Biff

"If was routine," said Sgt. Biff Yelensky, while the men were being identified and their homes searched. "We got the two targets we were looking for."

At another house 100 yards away, other soldiers from the company grabbed a third man, the final person in the company's game plan.

At the same time, another platoon from Task Force Tacoma was about 1,000 yards away taking two more men into custody. They are also believed to be behind the deadly activities in the

area.

"We had enough information, we're going to put these guys away for a while," said 1st Sgt. John Larson.

They were described by 1st Lt. Rodolfo Hall, company executive officer, as "HVTs" — high-value targets

The men, now being held at Anaconda, are believed to be involved in hijacking and kidnapping for ransom. The money the gain is then used to fund efforts to kill Americans at the base, the largest support base in Iraq. They've also been involved in murder, the Americans believe.

The 81st BCT is a National Guard unit from Washington state, augmented by a battalion from California and a company from Minnesota. Its main mission is force protection. Company B is from California.

The troops rolled out in the freezing darkness of early moring Friday, reaching the target—which was only a few miles away—before 6 a.m. The convoy of nearly a dozen vehicles included two MIA1 Abrams tanks and a field ambulance.

They perform these types of raids frequently, whenever intelligence has the goods. But the risk of each mission still creates a neryousness.

"Especially here. These guys are hijackers and murderers," said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Puentes, who teaches high school English in Los Angeles.

He said the winner of any fight is not in doubt, but the worry about the first shot is always there.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers of Company B, 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, a California National Guard unit, search a house in Al Shahabi, Iraq, early Friday after taking a man who lives there into custody on suspicion of planting roadside bombs.

Maintaining perimeter control no easy task

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

MUHAMMAD BAQII, Iraq — Often in the unconventional combat facing American troops in Iraq, the "cordon" part of a "cordon and search" mission is the most difficult.

While one section of troops raids a target, others block off the surrounding area, providing security and trying to deal with the inevitable crowds of onlookers, curious children and agitated locals caught up in the traffic.

That was the case Thursday, when troops from the Louisiana-based 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment raided a farm compound northwest of Baghdad. Corps-level intelligence reports said the compound use being used to manufacture and store roads dide bombs and that it was being used as shelter by as many as 50 insurgent.

As infantrymen working from Bradley fighting wehicles and Humwees searched the compound, other troops dealt with an increasingly large crowd on the streets outside. The "Voodoo" soldiers of the National Guard battalion's Headquarters and Headquarters Company tried to manage the traffic, reaching for a balance between providing security, searching vehicles and allowing innocent locals to go about their everyday business.

"This is getting messed up," hollered Sgt. Joseph Shanks, a 25-year-old from Baker, La, who normally works at the Georgia Pacific paper company. "They're letting more vehicles in, but they aren't letting any out."

In a briefing before the raid, soldiers at the checkpoints surrounding the target compound were told to check for identification, search vehicles and allow local traffic to pass through. But once the Iraqi vehicles entered the search area most couldn't find a way out.

So, as the soldiers dismounted and tried to run the checkpoints, more and more vehicles piled up. Small groups of Iraqi men began gathering; conspicuously absent were the



Domingue, a medic, and Sgt. Bryan Fisher, right, check medical documents presented by Iraqi men at a checkpoint outside of a search area near Baghdad.

Sgt. Bradford

JOSEPH GIORDONO Stars and Stripes

crowds of children that usually converge on groups of U.S. soldiers. While the kids can sometimes be a nuisance, soldiers say they're more nervous when the kids don't show up: It could be a sign, soldiers say, that some sort of

attack is imminent.

Sgt. Bryan Fisher, a 31-year-old construction worker from Chalmette, La., and Staff
Sgt. Robert Burns, a 36-year-old sheriff's deputy from New Iberia, La., chased down a suspicious white truck that kept turning around
and trying to find a road out of the area. After
a few tense moments, the soldiers determined that the truck was what its two occupants said it was — a delivery truck full of
eggs headed for Baghdad. But because neither man had identification, their photographs were taken and information on who
they said they were was recorded.

Inside the compound, soldiers were coming up empty in their search for bomb-making material or men with the surnames Hussein and Wissam, whom intelligence officers had ordered arrested on sight. Back outside, Sgt. Bradford Domingue, a 26-year-old former emergency medical technician from Carencro, La., was helping on the checkpoints. With a military-issue booklet of Iraqi phrases, Domingue was dealing with three men in a car who said they needed to leave because of a medical condition.

Domingue looked at the medicines they handed over, asked rudimentary questions about their problem and even checked an Iraqi version of a heart-monitor readout.

"Even the heart strip is confusing," he said, as he used a mix of the phrase book and sign language to communicate with the vehicle occupants. Eventually, after a search of the vehicle, the men were allowed to pass.

For the guardsmen of the 256th Brigade Combat Team, the learning curve has been steep. In less than two months in Iraq, they've come to a better understanding of the local culture, they said. But some things are still baffling.

SEE CORDON ON PAGE 7

SEE RAIDS ON PAGE 7

Increased airlifts in Iraq don't overtax USAFE

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germa-

ny - Increased military cargo flights in Iraq have had little effect on airlift squadrons based at Europe's cargo-hauling hub, airmen and U.S. Air Forces in Eurone officials said this week

The Air Force's top general said Tuesday that C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster cargo lifters have picked up their pace over the past month to decrease the time ground troops spend on dangerous supply routes. But USAFE officials said they have

asked to provide more aircraft.

Crewmemhers of Ramstein C-130 crews inst from back like-Iraq wise said their missions in Iraq



recent weeks

Lt. Bill Arthur. director of operations at USAFE's Air Mobility Operations Control Cen-

ter. oversees Ramstein aircraft being sent to

Iraq, said USAFE had "not re-ceived any requirements," for the base's 18 C-130 Hercules since the stepped-up airlift began last month.

On Tuesday, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper told reporters in Washington that transport planes in Iraq were carrying 25 percent more now than they had when he last visited in early November

Cargo lifters have carried an average of 450 tons of supplies per day over the past month, up from an average of about 350 tons per day, according to media reports.



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Strings

Staff Sgt. Thomas Ward from the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is met Thursday by his wife Kerri, Samantha, 2, and Asa, 8, when he returned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from a rotation in Iraq.

But Capt. Mike Contardo, a Hercules co-pilot with the Ramstein-based 37th Airlift Squadron who returned from Kuwait on

Thursday after 60 days in the region - said his missions were 'pretty steady-state." Contardo and his crew primari-

ly moved personnel in and out of Baghdad and Balad, Iraq, but they also moved some cargo. Aircrews flying missions into Iraq are already so busy that more planes or different types of cargo would likely just get assimilated into the mix. Contardo said. "There's enough Hercs out there that it wouldn't change much," he said. With the return of Contardo's

aircraft this week, all of Ramstein's C-130s are back in Germany. Air Force cargo missions may continue to expand in Iraq, with the tonnage of daily shipments continuing to rise, according to media reports.

Arthur said he couldn't speculate on what resources USAFE might be required to provide in that case

"It's really tough to say what those requirement [might be],"

he said, but added that USAFE is "postured to respond," to any increased mission demands.

That an increase in cargo missions might mean more flights over dangerous territory didn't seem to faze the pilots. The airmen said they'll deliver their cargo when and where the mis-sion requires. "If they put it in the back, we'll take it anywhere, said Capt. Marc Lovelace, another co-pilot with the 37th Airlift Squadron

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Raids: Proactive troop protection

RAIDS, FROM PAGE 6

"You don't know what to expect when you go in there," said Larson, 37, who is on permanent duty with the Guard in California.

The soldiers didn't kick the door in and barge through. They knocked. When the door was opened, they quickly moved inside and began an accounting of every person there. One man ran, but was found in a nearby house

At one house in Al Shahabi, the target lived with his wife and four young children. The soldiers made sure the children were warm while they began a search of the house after taking the father into custody

The children, all quite young, looked on in wide-eyed wonderment, seeming puzzled at the activity of the nighttime visitors. "I have three children myself." said Yelensky.

who is a full-time military member. "I'm a little sympathetic to the children. After the targets were grabbed and secured, sol-

diers began searching the houses, room by room. They looked for contraband, which could be any thing from illegal weapons to large sums of cash. Solin case something important is on them. They also took away shell casings, which, Larson

diers took a handful of audio tapes from one house id, can be used to make fake roadside bombs. While dealing with a fake bomb, he said, they can be caught by a real one.

After the soldiers' presence was known, two OH-58D Kiowa helicopters from 1st Squad, 17 Cavalry Regiment were called in to provide cover from the air and search for any approaching threats. The unit from Fort Bragg, N.C., recently arrived in the

Staff Sgt. James Heaney, who manages a Home Depot in Port Orchard, Wash., was in the platoon nearby that grabbed two men. He said the intelligence that led to this raid came from someone grabbed in an earlier mission. "We should be work-ing our way up to the big guy," he said.

The soldiers were happy but not jubilant after their early morning success. They were back at the base in time for breakfast. And they may have put a dent in the effort to harm Americans.
"For the soldiers," said Heaney, "this is a big mo-

rale boost."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Cordon: Hard to keep order at scene

CORDON, FROM PAGE 6

"They don't have a house, but they have a satellite dish. I don't understand it." Fisher said, as they drove past a family standing next to a satellite dish sitting by the shell of a crumbled house.

The raid, which kicked off around 2 p.m., finished a few hours later with no arrests or weapons found. But for the soldiers element, the day was far

headed back to base, "Voodoo" troops continued on to Sabaa al-Boor, a town U.S. military officials say is being targeted by insurgents for harassment and as a possible safe haven. The town is just east of Fallujah, and some U.S. intelligence officials say

some of the insurgents that escaped the assault there earlier this month have moved to Sabaa al-Boor

Units from the 256th BCT have been focusing on the city, trying to keep it from falling under insurgent influence. So, as darkness fell Thursday night, a few dozen troops went on a walking patrol of the unlit streets.

Just before midnight, they pulled back onto their base at Camp Victory, took off their gear and prepared for another day.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoj@pstripes.osd.mil

Pentagon seeks OK for anthrax vaccine

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is seeking emergency authority to resume administering the anthrax vaccine, saying troops in South Korea and the Middle East are at risk

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz made the request in a Dec. 10 letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. The No. 2 official at the Pentagon cited "a significant potential for a military emergency involving a heightened risk to United States military forces of attack with anthrax."

Wolfowitz did not describe any specific threat, but pointed to a classified intelligence assessment from last month regarding anthrax. He did not detail the assess-

DOD cites law that allows HHS to act in emergencies

HHS is considering the request, a depart-

Anthrax vaccinations by the military have been suspended since late October, when a federal judge ordered the military to stop requiring personnel to take the vaccine. The judge, responding to a lawsuit by six members of the armed forces, found fault in the Food and Drug Administration's process for approving the drug.

The military's request for emergency authority comes under the Project BioShield Act of 2004, which says that HHS, in response to a terrorist attack or other emergency, can allow the use of drugs that had not finished the FDA process, officials "We are concerned for the health and safety of our service members, particularly in worldwide operations involving the war on terrorism," said William Winkenwerder Jr., the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, in a statement provided by the Pentagon. "Intelligence indicates an oneoine threat of anthrax against

our military forces."

An HHS official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the BioShield law
was envisioned to be used after an attack
has occurred to protect the American public from an outbreak, not to pre-emptively
protect a part of the U.S. government.

U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan first ordered a halt to the mandatory vaccinations a year ago, saying that vaccine was being used for an unapproved purpose. Soon after, the FDA issued an order intended to give the vaccine final approval for use to prevent inhaled anthrax.

Sullivan later lifted the ban, except for the six plaintiffs, who asked Sullivan to reinstate the prohibition. He agreed, finding fault in the government's process for approving the vaccine.

proving the vaccine.

With the FDA's final approval overruled, the anthrax vaccine is considered investigational. Congress has prohibited the
military from giving investigational drugs
to soldiers without their consent unless
there is a presidential waiver.

Since 1998, 1.2 million troops have been vaccinated against anthrax. Before they were stopped, hundreds of service members had been punished or discharged for refusing them, according to the Pentagon.

Official: Saddam's defense minister to face hearing

Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad to appear in court alongside another notorious general, Chemical Ali

BY PAUL GARWOOD

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein's defense minister, who surrendered to American forces last year, will appear alongside another notorious general — known as Chemical Ali — when investigative trials open next week, an official said Friday.

Gen. Sultan Hashim Ahmad, who gave himself up in September 2003 at a coalition military base in the northern city of Mosul, will be among the first two to face the hearings, which intermiraqi Prime Minister Prime Minister Prime Minister Prime Minister Ayad Allawi announced will commence next week.

An Iraqi government official said Thursday that Saddam's noto-rious former right-hand man, Ali Hassan al-Majid — known as "Chemical Ali" for his use of chemical weapons — would head the list of 11 top regime members to appear at the initial niwestigative court hearings.
"Chemical Ali and Sultan will

"Chemical Ali and Sultan will be the first to face the hearings," the official, who is familiar with the proceedings, told The Associated Press.

Allawi's government has made a new push to start the trials ahead of Jan. 30 elections, in which campaigning has started amid continued insurgent violence.

On Friday, gunmen attacked a car in the northern city of Mosul, killing three people who appeared to be foreigners and their Iraqi driver. The bodies of the four victims, including one whose head was almost severed, were seen lying on the road alongside their burning car.

At least one body was set alight. Eyewitnesses said one of the slain men appeared to be in his 20s and another in his 40s and that they were dressed in jeans.

Police Capt. Zeid Waseem said police received reports that three of the dead were foreigners but their nationalities were not immediately known.

A day earlier, a person was killed in Mosul when seven mortar rounds struck near local gov-



A car burns in the northern Iraqi town of Mosul on Friday. According to eyewitnesses, gunmen stopped the car and killed four occupants, three of which are believed to be foreigners.

ernment offices, police Capt. Mohammed Abbas said.

Mosul, Iraq' third largest city, was initially peaceful after the U.S.-led invasion but it has become a worrisome trouble spot since U.S. and Iraqi troops invaded the insurgent stronghold of Falluiah, west of Baehdad, in Novem-

ber.

U.S. military spokesman Lt.
Col. Paul Hastings said security forces in western Mosul found the bodies of six unidentified Irraqi civilians who had been shot to death. Two more bodies were east. Since Nov. 10, about 160 bodies, including many affiliated with the Irraqi National Guard and police, have been found in the Mosul area.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy confirmed the name of an American kidnapped six weeks ago in a deadly attack in the Iraqi capital, and his family pleaded for his re-

Roy Hallums, a worker for a Saudi company that does catering for the Iraqi army, was seized Nov. 1 along with two other foreigners after a gunbattle in the upscale Mansour neighborhood. An Iraqi guard and one attacker were killed.

Hallums' wife, Susan, of Corona, Calif., said in a telephone interview Friday that she has not heard from the kidnappers. She is separated from her husband, the father of two daughters.

"I want to plead for his life and send out prayers and hope that he will be released," Susan Hallums said. "There has been no proof of life since he was taken."

The embassy confirmed Hallums' name and abduction but would give no other details. South of Baghdad, a fire an oil pipeline near the capital's Dora refinery sent thick black billowing smoke pouring into the sky Friday. Insurgents regularly attack the country's oil infrastruc-

ture.

Insurgents also fired rocket-propelled grenades at a compound in Baghdad's Green Zone used by Australian troops stationed in the Iraqi capital, a defense spokeswoman said Friday.

The former defense minister, Ahmad, was No. 27 on America's list of 55 most-wanted regime figures. He surrendered on Sept. 19, 2003, to Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who was then the commander of the 101st Airborne Division.

There were no injuries.

Ahmad is in U.S. military custody at an undisclosed location in Baghdad

During the 1991 Gulf War, Ahmad, then a lieutenant general, served as deputy chief of staff and head the Iraqi delegation at cease-fire talks. Ahmad was responsible for persuading Gen. Norman Schwarzkopt to allow Iraq to use military helicopters on official business. The allies came to regret that decision later when the Iraqis used helicopters to quell rebellious Shiites in Basra and Kurds in the north.

The Kurdish mediator instrumental in bringing Ahmad said at the time of the surrender that the deal was sealed after the Americans agreed to remove his name from the 55 most-wanted list, a move that would have seen him released without trial after his initial questioning ended.

It was not immediately clear if the alleged arrangements remained in place.

Saddam, 67, will not be among the group to appear in next week's court hearings, which will be open to some media representatives, officials have said.

The former Iraqi president met with a defense attorney Thursday for the first time since his capture a year ago. The unidentified attorney spent four hours with the former dictator at Saddam's undisclosed detention site.

The Iraqi interim government's push to get the trials for Saddam's former lieutenants under way before the Jan. 30 national elections has led to dissent even within the Iraqi Cabinet.

Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hassan told the Geneva daily newspaper Le Temps in an interview published Thursday that the trials should be held only "after the establishment of an Iraqi government with ballot-box legitima-

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004, at least 1,304 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,019 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Denartment said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,166 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 910 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the

military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by

the military:

One Marine was killed
Thursday in Iraq's Anbar prov-

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

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IN THE WORLD

Afghan troops storm prison to end standoff

BY AMIR SHAH

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan troops stormed a notorious prison Friday in an assault that commanders said ended a standoff sparked by a bloody escape attempt by four immates, once suspected of belonging to the al-Qaida terror organization.

Explosions ripped through the area around the Pul-e Charkhi jail as troops — firing rocket-propelled genades and small arms — launched the assault just before nightfail. Soon after, soldiers reported the last holdouts in the prison were killed, bringing the day's death toll to four immates and four

The standoff began in the morning when four inmates — three Pakistanis and an Iraqi — overpowered and killed a guard, then used his weapon to kill three other guards. Two of the inmates were killed in that battle.

The other two remained holed up for 10 hours before the assault, taking pot shots at the hundreds of security personnel ringing the prison, keeping them from reaching three wounded soldiers trapped inside the sprawling complex.

One soldier involved in the fighting emerged and told reporters that the rebellion had been put down and that all those involved in the jailbreak had been killed

killed.
Another soldier, who called himself Zabullah, later came out and told reporters: "We killed them,"

but gunfire soon erupted again.

After one last burst of gunfire, troops visibly relaxed and went through the pitch-black area with flashlights. "We searched all the rooms, and it's now under control, so we're leaving," said Amin Jan, an army commander.

The guard who was killed at the start of the breakout attempt was leading the prisoners to morning prayers about 7 a.m. when he was attacked with razors, then beaten and stabbed to death, said warden Abdul Salam Bakhshi. The guard's AK-47 rifle was then used in the subsequent battle.

Pul-e Charki prison is where three Americans are serving sentences of eight to 10 years there for torturing Afghans on a freelance hunt for terrorists.



Afghan security police officers stand guard in front of the Pul-e Charkhi prison in Kabul on Friday, where a bloody escape attempt left at least

Tourists take pictures in front of a massive billboard Friday showing photographs of Iraqi prisoners being abused by American soldiers in front of the U.S. Interest Section in Havana, Cuba. The U.S. mission ignored a demand earlier this week to remove Christmas decorations that include a reference to dissidents jailed by Fidel Castro's government, so Cuba erected the billboard in response.

Cuba counters U.S. decorations with Abu Ghraib abuse billboard

The Associated Press

HAVANA — Cuba responded Friday to U.S. diplomats' refusal to take down Christmas decorations by putting up a huge billboard in front of the U.S. Interest Section emblazoned with a swastika and showing photographs of Iraqi prisoners being abused by American

The billboard, put up overnight, had a large swastika in red and the word "fascists" covered with a "Made in the U.S.A." stamp.

Made in the U.S.A." stamp.

It sat prominently on the Male-

con, Havana's coastal highway, facing the mission's offices.

An American diplomat in Havana speaking on condition of anonymity said Friday that the torture of prisoners at Iraqi Abu Ghraib prison has been reported and discussed openly, and that those responsible are being prosecuted.

"On the other hand, the Cuban government does not allow a single word of dissent in its media, jails those who dare espouse different ideas and has not allowed [anyone] to visit Cuban political prisoners since the late 1980s," the official said.

The U.S. Interest Section, headed by chief James Cason, ignored a demand earlier this week to remove Christmas decorations that included a reference to dissidents jailed by Fidel Castro's government

The trimmings included a Santa Claus, candy canes and white lights wrapped around palm trees — and a sign reading "75" — a reference to 75 Cuban dissidents jailed last year.

Ashcroft praises Britain for stopping terror plots

BY HAROLD HECKLE
The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — U.S. Attorpey General John Ashcroft on Friday said he was confident Britain would resolve the controversy surrounding an anti-terrorist bill that allows it to hold suspects in-definitely without trial and praised police action in that country for averting several serious artifus of the control of the con

"I have not read the specific decision of the authorities in Great Britain, but I am confident from having spoken to British officials that they will find a way to defend the people of Great Britain." Ashcroft told reporters during a one-day trip to Madrid.

"We know that several plots against individuals in Britain have been disrupted," he said, but gave no details. "We know that they were very serious plots that were designed to be very damaging in tragic ways to the people of the U.K."

Recent media reports in Britain have said police and security agencies thwarted a Sept. 11-style attack in London that allegedly targeted Heathrow airport and three skyscrapers in the Docklands development of east London.

Britain's government has been heavily criticized over the anti-terror bill. On Thursday the country's highest court ruled that the detentions were discriminatory, disproportionate and incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

In Madrid as part of a European tour, Ashcroft signed treaties on extradition and legal assistance with his Spanish counterpart Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar

Turkey compromises

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The Dutch prime minister confirmed Friday that Turkey had accepted a compromise formula on recognition of Cyprus, paving the way for talks next year on Turkish membership of the European Union.

"Turkey has accepted the hand we offered to them," Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, whose country holds the current EU presidency, told reporters.

U.S.-Japan defense

TOKYO — Japan and the United States on Friday agreed to boost cooperation in their missile defense programs — the first step in carrying out new defense guidelines.

Japan's Defense Chief Yoshinori Ono and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker penned a memorandum that allows the two nations to share information on ballistic missile defense systems, a Defense Agency spokesman said.

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Sharon: Israel ready to work with Palestine

BY STEVEN GUTKIN

The Associated Press
HERZIJYA, Israel — Declaring 2005 a year of opportunity,
Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held
out the prospect of an independent state for the Palestinians if
they stop violence and said he is
ready to coordinate a Gaza pullout
with them.

Sharon's speech was strikingly

optimistic, a sign of change in the post-Yasser Arafat era, but Palestinian leaders said it fell short of expectations.

In Gaza, fighting continued. Israeli troops raided the Khan Younis refugee camp Friday after Palestinian mortar fire killed a Thai worker in a Jewish settlement and injured 17 people, including 11 sol-

diers, in the past week. Five Palestinians, including at least three gunmen, were killed in Friday's army raid. Bulldozers began knocking down buildings, and hundreds of Palestinians fled their homes for fear the army would demolish them. Dozens

Seventeen Palestinians, including an ambulance driver, were wounded in the fighting, hospital officials said. One Israeli soldier was wounded when Palestinians

sought refuge in a hospital

fired an anti-tank missile at forces in the area, the army said.

Addressing an academic conference Thursday evening, Sharon said Arafat had been the main obstacle to peace and his death in November turned 2005 into a "year of great opportunity."

Sharon has signaled he would work with Arafat's successor, likely to be PLO chief Mahmoud

Abbas, the front-runner in Jan. presidential elections.

Sharon said he is determined to go ahead with the planned with-drawal from Gaza and four West Bank settlements in 2005, "with conviction and without hesitation." The withdrawal is set to start July 3 and to be completed within three months. A final Cabinet vote on approving the pullout was initially scheduled for June.

Duma OKs terror bill

MOSCOW — The lower house of the Russian parliament on Friday gave tentative approval to an anti-terrorism bill that would expand the government's powers and impose tight restrictions on media coverage of anti-terror efforts, which critics said would hurt freedom of speech.

The State Duma voted 385-47 with one abstention to approve the bill in the first of three required readings. It also needs to be endorsed by the upper house and signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law.

The bill, written by members of the Kremlin-backed United Russia party that dominates the Duma, sets rules for anti-terror operations and determines the responsibilities of different government structures. It allows the government to introduce special security regimes to combat terrorism that involve temporary bans on rallies and pickets, curfews and other restrictions.

U.N. office finds bug

GENEVA — A secret listening device found at the Geneva offices of the United Nations was in a room adjoining a main conference hall, where it could have been used to eavesdrop on any private conversations, the global body said Friday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell and other foreign ministers of the U.N. Security Council discussed the postwar Iraq situation in the main hall last year. It was not immediately clear who used the smaller room.

The eavesdropping equipment could be Russian or East European in origin and was made three to four years ago, one expert told Swiss television.

Workers found the device during renovation work this fall on the room, spokeswoman for the U.N. office in Geneva.

Bombs found on bus

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian police seized a cache of bombs on a bus Friday, days after foreign governments warned that terrorists were preparing to launch fresh attacks in the country, the police chief said.

Police arrested 15 passengers, including the driver of the public bus, which was stopped in the West Javanese town of Bandung.

Three of the those detained were being questioned "intensively," said West Java detective chief Col. Ahmad Abdi.

Media reports described the bombs as primitive homemade. It appeared they were being

It appeared they were being transported in the bus and were not primed to go off.

From The Associated Press



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IN THE STATES

Bush signs intelligence bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - President Bush on Friday signed into law the largest overhaul of U.S. intelligence gathering in 50 years, hoping to improve the spy network that failed to prevent the Sept. 11. 2001, attacks

"Our vast intelligence enterprise will become more unified, coordinated and effective," Bush said. "It will enable us to better do our duty, which is to protect the American people.'

The 563-page bill, which endured a thorny path to congres-sional passage, also aims to tighten borders and aviation security. It creates a federal counterterrorism center and a new intelligence director, but Bush did not announce a candidate for that post at Friday's ceremony.

"A key lesson of Sept. 11 is that America's intelligence agencies must work together as a single. unified enterprise," Bush said

The Sept. 11 Commission, in its July report, said disharmony among the intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to prevent the attacks. The government failed to recognize the danger posed by al-Qaida and was ill-prepared to respond to the terrorist threat, the report concluded

Bush was joined at the signing ceremony by CIA Director Porter Goss, FBI Director Robert Muel-

President seeks spending cuts

WASHINGTON — President Bush is considering asking Congress to freeze domestic spending next year or cut it slightly, even as he prods lawmakers to allow younger workers to divert some of their Social Security taxes into personal investment accounts.

The two plans, which promise to be dominant issues next year, share a common thread: massive federal deficits that have set consecutive records, peak-ing at \$413 billion last year. The shortfalls have prompted Bush to seek savings from non-defense, non-domestic security programs, and have limited his options for shoring up Social Security for the looming retirement of baby boomers.

"This is an issue on which I campaigned and I'm still stand-Bush said of revamping Social Security at a White House

ler, members of Congress, leaders of the Sept. 11 commission and relatives of people killed on that terrorist attack

The new position of national intelligence director was one of the bill's most controversial aspects. Although the legislation gives the new director strong budget authority, its language is complex enough that there could be continued debate over the exact extent

economic conference, words he hoped would prompt support from lawmakers loathe to meddle with the giant retirement sys-

Bush wants to let younger workers take part of the Social Security taxes they now pay and invest the money in private accounts. Democrats say the pro-posal would enrich Wall Street bankers while further weakening the solvency of Social Security.

In 2018, Social Security will start paying out more in benefits than it collects in payroll taxes. In 2042, the system will be able to cover 73 percent of promised benefits, according to Social Security's trustees.

Bush said the country can't afford to wait any longer to fix the problem.

"The crisis is now," the presi-dent told the economic forum. - The Washington Post

of the director's power.But Bush attempted to leave no doubt about the sweeping nature of the intelligence director's budgetary au-Some names that have been men-

tioned for the post include CIA Director Porter Goss; Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, the head of the National Security Agency; Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.



Officers, with guns drawn, block an entrance to the Crystal Cathedral complex after a shooting incident at the site Thursday in Garden Grove, Calif. No one was hit when a gunman opened fire Thursday, and children in a church day care were rushed to safety, police said.

Church conductor opens fire, kills self

BY LAURA WIDES The Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. The longtime conductor of the Crystal Cathedral's orchestra Cathedral's orchestra shot himself to death Friday at the southern California landmark church after a nine-hour standoff that began when he opened fire as congregants prepared for a Christmas pageant.

Johnnie Carl. 57, had barricaded himself in a bathroom and shot himself early Friday morning as police officers tried to talk to him Carl, who also had made records with Celine Dion, the London Symphony and others, had grappled with depression, authorities said.

He had fired about four shots in his office, and it did not appear he was trying to hit anybody, police said. Children in a day care center were rushed to safety. No one else was injured in the incident.

The cathedral, a huge, sprawling structure of glass and steel not far from Disneyland, is home to the Rev. Robert Schuller's international Crystal Cathedral Ministries and claims a congregabers. The internationally tele-vised "Hour of Power" is broadcast from there.

The first shots were fired Thursday afternoon, less than two hours before the scheduled start of the cathedral's annual "Glory of Christmas" holiday show, for which Carl had arranged the prerecorded music. The two Thursday shows

The 78-year-old Schuller, who was at home when the shooting happened, taped a message for Carl, who had been conductor for 29 years. But police did not have a chance to play it or another mes sage from Carl's wife. They did play one from a friend who had helped Carl in the past, police said. In a statement, Schuller hailed

his friend as "a creative genius whose beautiful arrangements and superb conducting set new levels of excellence for sacred music. His music brought joy to the millions of viewers around the world who watch the Crystal Cathedral's 'Hour of Power' television program each week.

Carl is survived by his wife, Linda, and three children.

More details of WTC memorial unveiled

BY KAREN MATTHEWS The Associated Press

NEW YORK - The memorial honoring World Trade Center victims will include a forest of oak trees with a clearing for Sept. 11 gatherings and a Memorial Hall between the twin reflecting pools that will mark the footprints of the lost towers, officials announced Thursday.

Among the new elements of the site released Thursday were the Memorial Hall, a 1.5-acre clearing at ground level for public gatherings, and the exposed stumps of columns that supported the twin

John Whitehead, chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency overseeing rebuilding, called Memorial Hall a new public space where visitors will be able to "review a directory of the names, locating their loved ones among the souls that are there

Gov George Pataki Mayor Michael Bloomberg victims' family members and designers of the site also attended a news conference a few blocks from



Architects Michael Arad, left, Peter Walker, center, and Max Bond discuss their design for a memorial at the World Trade Center during a press conference in New York on Thursday.

the trade center site to release details of the memoria al design.

Michael Arad's design, "Reflecting Absence," was chosen earlier this year out of more than 5,000 submissions from around the world.

Celebrex heart risk

NEW YORK - Pfizer Inc. said it has found an increased risk of heart attacks with patients taking its top-selling painkiller Cele brex, a drug that is in the same class as Viovy but has no plans to remove it from the market.

Pfizer announced Friday that it found the increased risk in one of two long-term cancer prevention trials, while the other trial showed no increased risk.

The National Cancer Institute, which was conducting the study for Pfizer, suspended the use of Celebrex after discovering that patients taking 400mg to 800mg of the drug daily had a 2.5 times greater risk of experiencing major heart problems than those who were not. A separate cancer study found no increased heart

risk with patients taking 400mg of Celebrex per day.

Both Celebrex and Vioxx. which is made by Merck & Co., are a type of drug called cox-2 inhibitors, which have become pop-ular because of their effectiveness in treating the pain of arthritis and other ailments. Vioxx was pulled from the market in September because of safety concerns.

From The Associated Press

Bush has history of taking on embattled U.N. leaders

BY BARRY SCHWEID The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration, cool to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan as he copes with calls for his resignation, has a track record of

trying to oust heads of U.N. agencies.

This week, the administration called on Mohamed
ElBaradei, the Egyptian diplomat who heads the
U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, to step down after

completing a second term next summer. And two years ago, the administration was instrumental in the dismissal of Jose Mauricio Bustani, a Brazilian who was head of the U.N. chemical weapons regulatory body.

The International Labor Organization ruled last year Bustani was wrongly dismissed. The administration had accused him of mismanagement, but his supporters said he was targeted because he opposed the war with Iraq.

In Annan's case, it is a matter of the administration keeping its distance while investigators look into charges of corruption in the Iraqi oil-for-food program. It permitted Iraq under Saddam Hussein to sell oil — despite an economic embargo — provided that the proceeds were used for food and medicine for the hard-pressed Iraqi people.

Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn, last month called Annan's resignation "inevitable," especially in light of revelations that his son, Kojo Annan, received \$30,000 a year for more than five years from a Swiss-based company under investigation in connec-

tion with the U.N. program.

Five House Republicans have called for Annan to resign. One of them, Rep. Scott Garrett of New Jersey, said beyond that, "the question is whether he should be in ail."

Annan, who was in Washington on Thursday to speak to the Council on Foreign Relations, met with Secretary of State Colin Powell and his designated successor, Condoleezza Rice, mostly about scheduled elections next month in Iraq.

However, the controversy swirling about the U.N program was never far from the surface.

Annan's speech was largely about updating the United Nations, including how it might respond to terror and disease.

But he began it with a calm pledge to support his appointed investigators, headed by former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

"We must get to the bottom of these allegations," Annan said, adding that all U.N. staff have been directed to cooperate or face disciplinary measures, including dismissal.

Asked earlier at a news conference how he felt about Bush not seeing him, Annan said, "I don't feel snubbed." He added, "The president and I have met on many occasions, and we also do talk on the phone." Still, Bush last week declined an opportunity to en-

dorse Annan at a news conference.

Powell, meamwhile, did not spring to Annan's defense Thursday, saying carefully, "We want to get the truth out, and we want to see these investigations come to a conclusion so responsibility and accountability can be assigned. And the world wants to see the results of these investigations can so possible, as well."

Ivo Daalder, senior fellow for policy studies at the Brookings Institution, said the Bush administration has established a pattern of disdain for the United Nations and other international institutions and is "not afraid to use its muscle to remove people not to our liking."

Daalder said in an interview that the administration got rid of Bustani, the director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and is trying to oust ElBaradei as head of the International Atomic Energy Agency because "the had the temerity to disagree with the United States on Iraq — and worse, was proved right."



Customers leave a grocery story holding a flu shot clinic in Seattle

More people may get access to flu vaccine

By CHARLES PILLER Los Angeles Times

Federal health authorities are considering broadening the range of people who can receive a flu shot because of an unexpected quantity of unused vac-

The stocks exist because only about one-third of those who were encouraged to get a shot a high risk group that includes the elderly, people with chronic medical conditions and health care workers who interact with patients — have been vaccinat-

During last year's flu season, 54 percent of high-risk people were vaccinated.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that its Advisory Committee on Immuni-

zation Practices will meet Friday to consider providing the shots to more people.

Much of the U.S. flu vaccine supply was lost when contamination was discovered in August at the Chiron Corp. production plant in Liverpool. England.

"If there isn't very much flu, a lot of people think it wasn't going to be a problem... It's human nature," he said. "The critical message here is that it's not too late."

If the CDC expands the list of who should be vaccinated, it would follow moves adopted earlier this week by the California Department of Health Services and L.A. County.

Projected supplies would permit 65 million people to be vaccinated — still below what is considered ideal.

44 Every minute you spend looking

Departing NASA chief says he leaves without regrets

Decision to cancel Hubble mission criticized by prestigious scientific panel

BY MARCIA DUNN The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.— Sean O'Keefe, NASA's departing boss, said Friday he does not regret canceling the last shuttle mission to the Hubble Space Telescope—or anything else during his three years on the job.

O'Keefe's decision nearly a year ago prohibiting astronauts from repairing the Hubble, on post-Columbia safety grounds, was by far his most controversial and was challenged by a prestigious scientific panel just last week.

"The decision that I made I intend to stand by," O'Kee'fe said at a news conference. He said a pair of design reviews for a potential robotic mission to prolong Hubble's life, scheduled for March and August, "will tell us a lot more about this rather than guessing."

Unless astronauts or robots get to Hubble within a few years to install fresh batteries, gyroscopes and other equipment, its breathtaking observations of the cosmos will cease. "I don't know that there's a

"I don't know that there's a whole lot that I would have done differently," O'Keefe said. "I don't spend any amount of time, I've got to tell you flat out, really thinking about woulda, coulda, shoulda's and looking backward. Every minute you spend looking backward is time wasted from not looking forward."

O'Keefe met with reporters and then formally addressed NASA employees for the first time since resigning Monday. On Thursday, he was selected as the new chancellor of Louisiana State University.

He said it was appropriate for his yet-to-be-selected successor to preside over the shuttle's return to flight in late spring, since that is the first step in President Bush's plan to send astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars.

In a speech televised at NASA centers nationwide, O'Keefe assured employees that his decision to leave NASA was with mixed emotions and based on family considerations. The father of three teenagers, the oldest of whom will go off to college next fall, will more than triple his S1S8,000 an-

nual government salary at LSU.

He recalled the "wonderful

high moments" of landing two rovers on Mars and helping to develop the president's space exploration plan.

He also reflected on the heart-

break of last year's Columbia accident and told employees that "if history is any guide," there will be more triumph ahead — and probably tragedy, too.

O'Keefe plans to remain at NASA until February to allow

O'Keefe plans to remain at NASA until February to allow time for the president to select a new space agency chief and for the Senate to confirm the nomina-

backward is time wasted**!!**

Sean O'Keefe Departing NASA chief



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Blockbuster to curb its late fees in 2005

Movie rental giant to offer grace period, then charge full purchasing price

BY DAVID KOENIG The Associated Press

DALLAS — Blockbuster Inc., the nation's biggest movie rental company, says it will eliminate late fees on games and movies as of Jan. 1 — but if you keep them too long, you buy them.

The offer announced Tuesday suggests that Blockbuster is still struggling to blunt the competitive threat from NetFlix Inc. and cable.

The company had expected to earn \$250 million to \$300 million in operating profits next year from its unpopular late fees but believes it can make up for the lost income with increased volume — betting that customers, no longer worried about late fees, will rent more movies and games.

"We had to deal with late fees," said chairman and chief executive John Antioco. "It's the source of jokes on late-night TV. It's still anecdotally, and in some sense really, the biggest negative to Blockbuster. ... There were customer transactions that never happened because of late fees."

Blockbuster shares rose 40 cents, or 4.6 percent, to close at \$9.20 on the New York Stock Exchange. That is near the lower end of their 52-week trading range of \$6.50 to \$19.37.

Blockbuster faces new competition on several fronts — cheap DVDs in discount stores, mail-delivery service from Netflix, and movies on demand from cable TV operators — none of which come with late fees. Dallas-based Block-buster said it tested dropping late fees in several cities over the past year and found that retail sales of movies increased.

Blockbuster customer Susan Murray, who raced to a Dallas store just before noon Tuesday to avoid a charge, welcomed the planned elimination of late fees. Murray said she gets dinged a late fee almost every time she rents — \$11.50 for two movies last week alone —including occasions when she was sure she had beat the deadline.

"I was going to cancel [Blockbuster] and get Netflix," Murray said. "I decided a couple days ago that was it. Now I'll have to reconsider."

But rivals claimed that Blockbuster wasn't really eliminating late fees, only giving customers more time before incurring even larger payments.

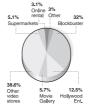
Blockbuster said due dates at its 4,500 U.S. stores would remain one week for games and two days or one week for movies. The company said it would give customers a one-week grace period at no charge, starting on New Year's Day.

Renters who keep the movies or games beyond the grace period will be charged for purchasing

Video rental market

Blockbuster announced Tuesday that it will eliminate late fees on in-store rentals as of Jan. 1. In 2003, Blockbuster controlled 32 percent of the video rental market.

2003 video rental market share



SOURCE: "The Future of Video Rental: A Strategic Analysis", Arlams Media Research

the DVD or tape at Blockbuster's full retail price, minus the rental fee, the company said. If they return the movie or game in the next 30 days, they will get a refund for the purchase but will be charged a restocking fee of \$1.25, the company said.

e company said. Reed Hastings, CEO of Los Gatos, Calif.-based Netflix, said Blockbuster had to do something to prevent losing store customers to Netflix and its own online movie-order service, which together have doubled their customers in the past year, to 3 million.

Reed Hastings, CEO of Los Gatos, Calif.-based Netflix, said Blockbuster's move would backfire because of the potential of being charged for purchasing a late DVD

"Many consumers will be unhappy with the idea that their credit card is going to get charged" if they miss the grace period, he said.

But Chelsea Burns of Dallas, who dashed over from the office where she works as an underwriter to avoid a \$4 late charge on her DVD, said Blockbuster's about-face on fees would prompt her to rent a few more movies.

Burns only rents from Blockbuster but said she racks up so many late charges — nearly weekly — that she considered signing up for a \$17.49-a-month subscription that comes with no late fees

"Now I'm glad I didn't sign up because avoiding late fees was the whole reason for doing that," she said.

Named in several class-action lawsuits over late charges, Blockbuster stopped disclosing how much it made from the fees several years ago. In 2000, the last full year for which figures are available, the fees amounted to 19 percent of the company's revenue. A trade publication recently estimated that late fees accounted for about 10 percent of Blockbuster's revenue, which was \$5.82 billion last year.

Antioco declined to say how much revenue Blockbuster expected from late fees in 2005, but he said the lost operating profit will be offset by increasing other revenue and cutting costs. Dennis B. McAlpine, an analyst

at McAlpine Associates, said giving up \$250 million to \$300 million in operating profit didn't make sense.

"What's he getting, other than a warm fuzzy feeling in the bellies of his customers?" McAlpine said. "That's lost money. He's not going to get that back."

Marla Backer, an analyst with Soleil Securities, called Blockbuster's move a positive step that will improve the chain's image. Backer said she was still worried about the weak rental market, however.

In August, Blockbuster launched an Internet-order, mail-delivery service like Netflix. Antioco said he expected to lose some subscriptions but still hit a goal of signing up 10 percent of its store customers by the end of next year.

Blockbuster, Netflix and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are locked in a brutal price war that has raised questions about the profitability of online-ordering services.

Thursday's Market Summary

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EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs\$1.3638	
British pound\$1.99	
Japanese ven (Dec. 18)102.00	
British pound \$1.99 Japanese yen (Dec. 18)	
Bahrain (Dinar)0.37698	
British pound\$1.9309	
Canada (Dollar)1.2335	
Denmark (Krone)5.29	
Egypt (Pound)6.2251	
Bahrain (Dinar)	
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7755	
Iceland (Krona) 61.73	
Israel (Shekel)4.3234	
Japan (Yen)104.78	
Kuwait (Dinar)0.29468	
Norway (Krone)5.82	
Philippines (Peso)56.24	
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Singapore (Dollar) 1.6453 South Korea (Won) 1056.40 Switzerland (Franc) 1.09	
South Korea (Won)1056.40	
Switzerland (Franc)1.09	
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Thailand (Baht)	
(Military exchange rates are those	
available to customers at military bank-	
ing facilities in the country of issuance	
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the	
Netherlands and the United Kingdom.	
For nonlocal currency exchange rates	
(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-	
ny), check with your local military bank-	
ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-	
bank rates provided for reference when	
buying currency. All figures are foreign	

British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.) PRECIOUS METALS

Gold ______\$438.0 Silver ____\$6.6

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate 5.
Discount rate 3.
Federal funds market rate 2.
3-month bill 2.
30-year bond 4.
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Are you ready to retire?

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK - Baby boomers may not be as prepared for re-

tirement as they think.

Only 42 percent of boomers have decided on an age to retire and have actively planned out how much they should save each month to achieve that goal, reports Allstate Insurance Company. The company found that 38 percent of workers have made very few, if any, preparations for retirement.

How do you fare? Answer these 10 questions to find out if you're ready to retire:

Have you and your spouse

- discussed retirement plans and goals?

 Do you know what options
- are available for retirement savings?
- Have you and your spouse decided at what ages you will retire?
- Do you monitor your savings and investments with your retirement age in mind?
- Have you estimated what g

- your retirement income will be from Social Security, your employer-sponsored retirement plan and other savings?
- Do you continue to search for new savings options to help you increase your retirement assets? ■ Have you estimated how
- much you will spend each year during retirement?

 Do you have a plan to automatically divert money from
- your paycheck or bank account into retirement savings?

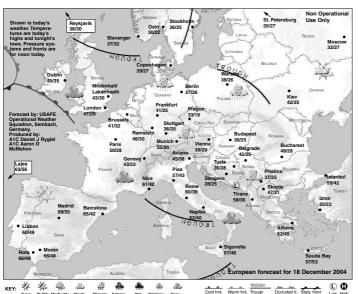
 Have you prepared an emergency fund or otherwise finan-
- cially prepared for unexpected life events such as illness or unemployment?

 Do you periodically review your insurance coverage to en-
- your insurance coverage to ensure you are adequately covered?

 If you answered yes to two or

fewer questions, it's not too late to be financially fit, so start doing your homework now.

If you answered yes to three to six questions, you're off to a good start.



AFRICA

64/51

Snow City Cir Cir

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in low 40s, Sunday lows in the upper 20s to

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshow-ers. Highs in the 40s, Sunday lows in the upper 20s to mid 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy skies with morning fog and rain/snow. Highs in the upper 20s to upper 30s, Sunday lows in the 20s.

France: Partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rainshowers. Highs in the low 50s to low 60s, Sunday lows in the upper 20s to low 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain/snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s to low 40s, Sunday lows in the 20s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the mid 30s to upper 40s, Sunday lows in the low 20s to low

Hungary: Cloudy skies with rain/s showers. Highs in the upper 30s, Sunday lows in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy skies with morning fog. Highs in the mid 40s, Sunday lows in the upper 30s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy skies with rain-showers. Highs in the low 60s, Sunday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Cloudy skies with morning freezing rain and fog with afternoon snow. Highs in the 30s, Sunday lows in the 20s.

Norway: Cloudy skies with rain/snow showers. Highs in the 30s, Sunday lows in the low 20s to low 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 50s to mid 60s, Sunday lows in the mid 30s to upper

Turkey: Partly cloudy skies. Highs in the upper 20s in the north to low 50s in the south, Sunday lows in the low teens in the northwestern regions to low 40s in the southeastern regions.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil SUN & MOON

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New Delhi

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Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station. STARS STRIPES

Your Hometown Newspaper

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A fatal test

D OROFINO — A man has been charged with involuntary manslaughter for fatally shooting his friend through a protective vest on an apparent dare, police said.

dare, police said.

Alexander Joseph
Swandic, 20, died of a
gunshot wound to the
heart after donning a
protective vest and
asking David John

Hueth, 30, to shoot him, police said.

Hueth initially told police that Swandic's wound was self-inflicted, but later admitted to the shooting. The two had apparently tested the vest by propping it against a dirt bank and shooting it twice, police said.

Hueth faces a preliminary hearing on Dec. 27. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

PETA punishment

ANCHORAGE — An animal rights group is recommending that an Anchorage woman accused of neglecting more than 100 cats in her home get psychiatric help if convicted of animal cruelty.

mal cruelty.

PETA sent a letter to city procepetal wile. Spiropoulos serting out
cutor Nick Spiropoulos serting out
cutor Nick Spiropoulos serting out
cutor Nick Spiropoulos
serting out
sent of Krystal Allen, a 52-year-old
woman charged with two counts of
animal cruelty for allegedly keeping animals in an inhumane maner by failing to provide adequate
food, water, housing and care. A
third count of animal cruelty stems
third count of animal cruelty stems
legedly hit a cat so hard if hit a
wall.

The charges are misdemeanors. Each is punishable by a maximum one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine.

Fog collision

CA SACRAMENTO — Two tractor trailers and at least 10 cars collided in dense fog on a Northern California highway. No one was killed but several people were injured, officials said.

Visibility was about an eighth of a mile when the pileup occurred on Interstate 5 north of Sacramento, the California Highway Patrol said. A dump truck lay on its side and several cars were crushed in the pileup.

the pileup.

Officials could not immediately comment on the severity or number of injuries

Snake slithers into mail

CLIFTON — A Missouri family's pet snake, missing for a month, turned up alive and slithering in a box they had sent to New Jersey, about 1,000 miles away.

The box contained a DVD player that was being sent for repairs. The family believes Paco the python crawled into the box before

thon crawled into the box before they sealed it and sent it to the factory via UPS.

Sheila Himmerick said her fami-

Shelia Hillinerica sadi her and hy had been looking for the sanke when she received a call from Sanug's New Jersey repair shop, CVE Inc., wondering if the snake in the box belonged to her and whether it was her way of expressing customer dissatisfaction. Paco will be shipped back home

to Missouri, this time in temperature-controlled comfort.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man bites dog

GAINESVILLE — A man has been charged with animal cruelty for allegedly biting his Jack Russell terrier as punishment, and police say he used a 200-pound bull mastiff in an attempt to keep back officers who arrived to arrest him.

The mother of Mount Lee Lacy's girlfriend called police because she was concerned about an argument between him and her daughter about Lacy's unusual discipline method for his dog Lady.

Officers kicked down the apartment door when they heard an argument and a barking dog. Lacy was holding the mastiff named Breaker on a taut leash 6 feet inside the door. The officers drew their guns but didn't fire.

Lacy, 21, was handcuffed and jailed on one count each of felony animal cruelty and resisting arrest without violence

House built under bridge

CHICAGO — For three or four years, a homeless man achieved the impossible: He found a cheap place to live on pricey Lake Shore Drive.

Actually, Richard Dorsay lived under Lake Shore Drive, in a wooden shack built into the beams and girders of the drawbridge that crosses the Chicago River.



Keeping balance

Thomas Thale, dressed as a toy soldier and on stilts, gathers his streamers and bag as he attempts to climb the stairs outside KSDK plaza in St. Louis. Dorsay was recently evicted after another man arrested in suburban Streamwood told police about the home under the bridge.

when authorities went inside, they found an elaborate setup that tapped into the bridge's electricity to power a television, microwave, space heater and Play-Station video game system.

There, Dorsay could relax, turn on a Chicago Bears game, invite friends over and pop open some beers.

The home had it quirks. Whenever Dorsay heard the bells that signal the arms of the bridge would soon rise to let boats through, he held on as the bridge slowly pitched him forward.

Founder statue planned

HOUSTON — A 60-foot statue of Texas founding father Stephen F. Austin is planned for an Angleton park near one of his early settlements.

The concrete statue, scheduled for completion in May, will tower over a 10-acre park. Promoters said they believed it was time to honor Austin.

Being created by Houston sculptor David dickes at his Houston David dickes at his Houston to Bear the Houston of the statice will show Austin fringed bytecksin with a \$2-foot rifle at his side. It will be just a few feet shorter than "Big Sam," Adickes' gargantuan concrete-and-steel image of statesman Sam Houston erected near Huntsville in 1994.

Austin is hailed as the "Father of Texas" for his role in bringing thousands of Anglo settlers to Texas when it was controlled by Mexico, and his namesake is the state's capital.

Nude lamp debate

MONTPELIER — A group preparing to celebrate the life of a Vermont-born sculptor is petitioning Gov. James Douglas to leave a replica of Hiram Powers' most famous work — which portrays a nude chained woman — on his Statehouse desk.

The petitioners, who include the wife of U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, say "The Greek Slave" is one of the most important pieces of art ever created by a Vermont native.

created by a vermont native.

The governor wants the lamp that incorporates the replica removed from his office desk during the proposition of the desk during the proposition of the pr

Gibbs said the lamp would remain on display at the Statehouse while the Legislature is in session, but not on the governor's desk.

Twins deliver twins

GA ATLANTA — Two twin sisters are seeing double — or make that quadruple — after delivering two sets of twin boys.

Twenty-one-year-olds Ashlee Spinks of Indianapolis and Andrea Springer of Conyers, Georgia, delivered their boys by scheduled Caesarean sections about an hour apart at Northside Hospital.

The two couples said twins run in the families of all four parents, and that they did not use fertility drugs to conceive the babies.



All I want is sleep A Santa-in-training lets Gavin Eshleman, 4 months, take a little rest during a visit to Park City Mall in Lancaster, Pa.



Practice makes perfect City West Senior High School in Traverse City, Mich., practices with other members of TC West's orchestra. The group was preparing for their upcoming performance at the Michigan Music Educators Conference in Am Arbor, Michigan.



Making repairs Alexandra Rum paints a statue of a shepard from a manger scene at St. Mary's Church in



If the snow won't come to you ...

Janina Richmond-Reck, 4, makes an angel in a bunch of leaves in Independence, Kan.



A tasteful gift Nonja, 52, the oldest orangutan in the United States, opens a holiday gift filled with bananas, raisins, and popcorra at Minaim Metrozoo in Minaim. Throughout the month of December, animals in the zoo receive wrapped gifts filled with their favorite treats as part of an annual celebration.



Standing tall
Snow lies on the statue "Lincoln
Walks at Midnight" in front of the
West Virginia state capitol in
Charleston, W.Va.



Moving time Matt Lippiatt of Anderson, S.C., carries the boxspring of a mattress set to a delivery truck outside Hampton Furniture in Anderson, S.C.

Drug deal busted

ID NEZ PERCE — A man picked the wrong location for an alleged drug deal. Telling an eyewitness to mind his own business also was not a good

It was in front of the home of Lewis County's sheriff-elect, who was sitting on his front porch. "They really picked the wrong house to be in front of," said Phil

house to be in front of," said Phil Steen, who will be sworn into office next month. Steen had only lived in the home

about three weeks when he decided to enjoy the evening air. But some suspicious activity on the street impaired his view.

Instead of looking elsewhere, Steen ran the suspects' license plates. It led to a search of two houses and a vehicle, then the arrest of James MacArthur, 46. MacArthur is charged with pos-

session of marijuana with intent to deliver, unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Let it \$now

PA DORMONT — Forget all that stuff about a white Christmas. Jeweler Barry Landay's customers are hoping for subits New York's Det.

a white New Year's Day.
That's because, for the fourth
straight year, Landay's Style Jewelry in this Pittsburgh suburb is offering a full refund to anyone who
buys jewelry between now and
Christmas Eve if at least six inches
of snow fall at Pittsburgh International Airorot on New Year's Day.

Landay hasn't had to pay up in past years. But he's not crazy — he's insured by a policy covering the promotion.

The sign in the window of Landay's store reads "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow" and features another big word: Free.

Giant seaplane found

ID HONOLULU — Researchers cataloging underwater debris around Pearl Harbor have made a giant discovery — the wreckage of one of the largest aircraft ever built.

A Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory submersible found the main body of the Marshall Mars, a Navy seaplane that had a 200-foot wingspan and sank following an engine fire in 1950.

The Mars aircraft series was built to move cargo, primarily between California and Hawaii. The Mars Marshall once carried more than 308 people aloft, a record at the time.

Pieces of the Mars Marshall were first found in August when the nose and keel were found, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

Rancher charged

LOGAN — A 69-year-old rancher who authorities allege habitually let his cattle run loose was arrested for manslaughter after a woman was killed in a collision with one of his cows, police said.

Darrell Kunzler of Benson was arrested, according to the Utah Highway Patrol. Kimberly Johnson of Auburn, Wash., a 40-year-old mother of six, was killed Nov. 27 when her vehicle collided with one of Kunzler's Black

Angus steers on Utah Route 30. According to an arrest warrant, Kunzler has a 30-year pattern of

failing to properly contain his livestock, despite repeated requests by law enforcement.

Kunzler is charged with one count of criminal homicide-manslaughter and five misdemeanor counts of reckless endangerment.

Judge's robe disputed

AL judge refused to delay a trial when an attorney objected to his wearing a judicial robe with the Ten Commandments embroidered on the front in gold.

Circuit Judge Ashley McKathan showed up at his Covington County courtroom in southern Alabama wearing the robe. Attorneys who try cases at the courthouse said they had not seen him wearing it before. The commandments were described as being big enough to read by anyone near the judge.

Attorney Riley Powell, defending a client charged with DUI, filed a motion objecting to the robe and asking that the case be continued. He said McKathan denied both motions. McKathan said that he believes

the Ten Commandments represent the truth "and you can't divorce the law from the truth... The Ten Commandments can help a judge know the difference between right and wrong."

He said he doesn't believe the commandments on his robe would have an adverse effect on jurors.

Sloppy thieves

POPLAR BLUFF — To catch two suspects, police needed only to follow the trail of stolen goods — literally. In their haste to make off with

stolen items, the thieves dropped some of them along the way, creating a series of obvious clues for police to follow. Police said the trail was about

Police said the trail was about 100 yards long, and led from a burglarized store, DCC Enterprises, to a residence where the suspects were hiding with stolen merchandise.

Two inveniles were arrested on

suspicion of second-degree burglary and stealing more than \$500.

Police search for mother SAN FRANCISCO — Police

are asking the public to help find the mother of a dead infant found in the wastewater tank of a Greyhound bus. The body of a third-trimester

boy was found by a bus maintenance worker after the bus arrived in the city. Police are particularly interested in speaking to passengers who were on the bus.

"We don't know if the child ever breathed," police Lt. John Hennessey said. "We want to know if anybody saw anyone who was emotionally distressed or who may have given birth."

Governor to sell license

CHEYENNE — Gov. Dave
Freudenthal has again offered his complimentary big-game
unting licenses for sale to benefit
a variety of Wyoming wildfie-relatd projects, according to the governor's office. By statute, the govermentary big-game licenses esch
year. In 2003 and 2004, the goveron's big game licenses raised
\$730,000 for wildfife-related
projects.

30-year pattern of Stories and photos from wire services

			AFR	TS Televisio	n Schedule			
		Updated sports listi	ngs are available on the first	Scoreboard page in the sp SATURDAY, DECEMBER	orts section or AFN's Web si	te at http://myafn.dodmedia.	osd.mil/	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Static Shock	(8:46) Movie * * * 5 "Star	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Access Hollywood	Nightline	College Football NCAA Divi-	Clean House	Access Hollywood
9:30	Kim Possible "O Boyz" (EI)	Trek IV: The Voyage Home" (1986, Science Fiction) William	Drake & Josh "Grammy"	1	Air Force TV News	sion I-AA Final James Madi- son vs. Montana. From Chat-		
10:00	Teen Titans "Terra" Teenage Mutant Ninja Turt.	Shatner, Leonard Nimoy.	That's So Raven Switched!	Headline News ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	tanooga, Tenn. (Live)	BBQ With Bobby Flay \$40-a-Day	Headline News ESPNews
11:00	Dragonball GT	Movie ** * "Topaz" (1969,	Focus on the Force	George Lopez "Love Bites"	The O'Reilly Factor		Fashion Police	According to Jim
11:30	Justice League	Suspense) John Forsythe, Frederick Stafford, Dany Robin.	American Adventurer	Half & Half			It's Good to Be	Half & Half
12:00 12:30	Teen Kids News (EI) Tutenstein (EI)	A French agent investigates Cuba's link with the Soviets.	Access Hollywood	CSI: Miami 'Money for Nothing'	Dateline NBC	SportsCenter	101 Most Unforgettable SNL Moments	CSI: Miami "Money for Nothing"
13:00	Endurance (EI)		WWE Raw	Law & Order: Special Victims	CNN Saturday Morning	Inside the NFL	Intimate Portrait "Kim Cattrall"	Law & Order: Special Victims
13:30	Scout's Safari "Ritual" (EI) Skunked TV "Who Let the Bird	(:40) Movie ***: "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship	According to Jim	Unit "Careless" Headline News	Economy Watch	NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns	Antiques Roadshow "Char-	Unit "Careless" Headline News
14:00	Out?"	of the Ring" (2001, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Liv	Half & Half	Saturday Night Live	Leonomy water	at Seattle Sonics. From the Ke-	lotte, North Carolina"	Saturday Night Live
15:00	Most Extreme "Venom" Lethal injections.	Tyler. Hobbits and allies begin a	CSI: Miami "Money for Nothing"		CNN Saturday Morning	yArena in Seattle.	Star Trek: Voyager "Learning Curve"	1
15:30 16:00	Hercules: The Legendary	quest to destroy the One Ring.	Law & Order: Special Victims	Kickin' It I atest in music and	Bulls and Bears	SportsCenter	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It Latest in music and
16:30	Journeys "What's in a Name?"		Unit "Careless"	trends.	Cavuto on Business		' '	trends.
17:00 17:30	Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power	Movie *** "Easter Parade" (1948. Musical) Judy Garland. A	Headline News Navy/Marine Corps News	College Football Teams TBA.	Forbes America's Black Forum	NFL Countdown	Fear Factor	College Football Teams TBA.
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	dancer grooms a replacement for his former partner.	SportsCenter	(Cito)	CNN Live Saturday	College Basketball Kentucky	What Not to Wear "Anne"	(Lite)
18:30	Rugrats				War Stories With Oliver North	at Louisville. (Live)	Anne's matronly look changes.	1
19:00	Movie *** "Toy Story" (1995, Adventure) Voices of	Movie ** "Orange County" (2002, Comedy) Colin Hanks,	NFL Today NFL Football Pittsburgh Steel-		War Stories With Oliver North		Trading Spaces	
19:30 20:00	Tom Hanks, Tim Allen.	Jack Black.	ers at New York Giants. From Giants Stadium in East Ruther-	College Basketball Arizona at		College Basketball Texas at	Tru Calling "Brother's Keeper"	College Basketball Arizona at
20:30	Movie * * "Twas the Night" (2001, Fantasy) Bryan	(:37) Movie * "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler, Winona	ford, N.J. (Live)	Marquette. (Live)	Army Newswatch Next at CNN	Wake Forest. (Live)	1-800-Missing "72 Hours to	Marquette. (Live)
21:00 21:30	Cranston, Josh Zuckerman.	Ryder. A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.					Kill	
22:00	My So-Called Life			Headline News	FOX News	ESPNews	Friends	Headline News
22:30	The Simpsons "HOMR"	Holiday Movie Magic Movie ** * "Men in Black"	College Basketball Teams to	Army Newswatch NFL Football Washington Red-	FOX News	ESPNews College Basketball Teams to	Seinfeld "The Apology" The Real World	Army Newswatch NFL Football Washington Red-
23:30	The Simpsons "Pokey Mom"	(1997) Tommy Lee Jones.	Be Announced. (Live)	skins at San Francisco 49ers.	-	Be Announced. (Live)	Punk'd	skins at San Francisco 49ers.
	IF .	I(11:00) Movie +++ "Men in	(11:00) College Basketball	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 I(11:00) NFL Football Washing-		I/11:00) College Baskethall	IMad TV	(11:00) NFL Football Washing-
00:00	Futurama Futurama	(11:00) MOVIE *** "Men IN Black" (1997) Will Smith	(11:00) College Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	ton Redskins at San Francisco	McLaughlin Group (N)	Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Mad I V	ton Redskins at San Francisco
1:00	Movie *** "Toy Story"	(12:53) Movie *** "Die	Saturday Night Live	49ers, From Monster Park in San Francisco, (Live)	The Capital Gang	ESPNews	Trading Spaces	49ers. From Monster Park in San Francisco. (Live)
1:30	(1995, Adventure) Voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen.	Hard With a Vengeance" (1995, Drama) Bruce Willis, Je-		(2.17)	Washington Week in Review	ESPNews SportsCenter	Tru Calling "Brother's Keeper"	
2:00	Movie * * "Twas the Night"	remy Irons, Samuel L. Jackson.	Kickin' It Latest in music and	College Basketball Mississippi	Headline News	NFL Football Carolina Pan-	1	College Basketball Mississippi
3:00	(2001, Fantasy) Bryan Cranston, Josh Zuckerman.	Movie ★★% "Orange County" (2002, Comedy) Colin Hanks,	trends. The Entertainers	State at Xavier. (Joined in Progress) (Live)	Larry King Live	thers at Atlanta Falcons. From the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.	1-800-Missing *72 Hours to Kill*	State at Xavier. (Joined in Progress) (Live)
3:30 4:00	My So-Called Life	Jack Black.	The Entertainers	Madeline	At Large With Geraldo Rivera	(Live)	Friends	Madeline
4:30	,	(:37) Movie * "Mr. Deeds"	The American Athlete	Happily Ever After	_		Seinfeld "The Apology"	Happily Ever After
5:00 5:30	Sesame Street (EI)	(2002) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder. A pizza maker inherits a	Headline News Hour of Power	The Three Stooges (:20) The Three Stooges	Dateline International	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga Caribbean Workout	Movie *5 "I'll Be Home for Christmas" (1998, Comedy)
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	fortune from a distant relative.	Celebration of Victory	Gilligan's Island	Big Story Weekend Edition	1	Area	Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Jessi- ca Biel. Adam Layorgna.
6:30	Blue's Clues (EI)	Holiday Movie Magic Movie + + + + "Apple Hall"	Coral Ridge Hour World in the World	The Simpsons MotorWeek	CNN Saturday Night	College Basketball Georgia Tech vs. Gonzaga. From Las	Swamp Critters	MotorWeek
7:00	Sylvester & Tweety Scooby Doo	(1977 Comedy) Woody Allen	Cafe Video Christian music.	Ebert-Movies	CNN Saturday Night	Vegas. (Live)	Harvest	Ebert-Movies
8:00	The Magic School Bus (EI)	Diane Keaton, Tony Roberts.	Madeline	WWE Smackdown!	The Beltway Boys		Music and the Spoken Word	WWE Smackdown!
8:30 9:00	The Jetsons House of Mouse	(:45) Movie * * * "Smokey and the Bandit" (1977, Come-	Happily Ever After Movie ★s "I'll Be Home for	Andromeda	Fox News Watch Headline News	SportsCenter SportsCenter	Real Videos Latin Lifestyles	Andromeda
9:30	Animaniacs	dy) Burt Reynolds, Jackie Glea- son, Sally Field	Christmas" (1998) Jonathan Taylor Thomas, Jessica Biel.		America's Black Forum	PGA Tour Year End Special	Urban Style	
10:00	Ed, Edd n Eddy	,,	.,	Headline News	The Chris Matthews Show	Highlights of the PGA season. Golf Wendy's Three-Tour Chal-	Fantasy Camp	Headline News
10:30 11:00	Fillmore (EI) Out There	Coming Attractions Movie **** "Titanic"	SpongeBob SquarePants Destinations	ESPNews Smallville "Hereafter"	Navy/Marine Corps News Big Story Weekend Edition	lenge First Day, From Reflec-	Roker on the Road Radical Sabbatical	ESPNews Smallville "Hereafter"
11:30	Planet's Funniest Animals	(1997, Drama) Leonardo Di- Caprio, Kate Winslet, Billy	Ebert-Movies	1		tion Bay Golf Club in Hender- son, Nev. (Taped)	All-American Festivals	1
12:00	Nick News Special Edition Happy Days	Zane. Oscar-winning account of	Headline News Army Newswatch	Movie ** "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) Jim	20/20	SportsCenter	The Suze Orman Show	Movie *** "Elf" (2003, Com- edy) Will Ferrell, James Caan. A
13:00	Movie * * * "Miracle on 34th	the doomed 1912 ocean liner.	College Basketball Oklahoma	Carrey. The evil Grinch plots to ruin Christmas in Whoville	Fox and Friends	1	Celebrity Poker Showdown	man leaves Santa's workshop to search for his family.
13:30	Street" (1994) Richard Atten- borough, Elizabeth Perkins.		State at UNLV. (Live)	Headline News	Fox and Friends	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	1	Headline News
14:00	Movie *** "Home Alone"	(:40) Movie *** "The		Scrubs "My Heavy Meddle"	rux and Friends	vanouskeu. (lapeu)	1	Scrubs "My Heavy Meddle"
15:00	(1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, Daniel Stern.	Preacher's Wife" (1996) Den- zel Washington, Whitney Hous-	SportsCenter	Meet the Press	CBS News Sunday Morning	1	Battle Stations "A10" Tank de-	Meet the Press
15:30	Aaahh! Real Monsters	ton. An angel becomes drawn	WWE Smackdown!	America's Black Forum		Sports Reporters	stroyer. JAG "Iron Coffin"	America's Black Forum
16:30	Rocket Power	to a pastor's dulcet-toned wife.		Access Hollywood	Face the Nation	SportsCenter		Access Hollywood
17:00	SpongeBob SquarePants Rugrats	True Hollywood Story	Stargate SG-1	ESPNews	Headline News Navy/Marine Corps News	NFL Countdown	The Best Of Good Eats	ESPNews
17:30 18:00	Kratt Bros. Be the Creature	1	Fox NFL Sunday (Live)	NFL Today (Live)	Late Edition Primetime		My Wife and Kids	NFL Today (Live)
18:30	Coastal creatures.						King of the Hill	1
19:00 19:30	America's Funniest Home Videos	Movie ** "Mumford" (1999) Loren Dean, Hope	NFL Football Regional Cover- age Dallas at Philadelphia,	NFL Football Regional Cover- age Buffalo at Cincinnati,		NFL Football Regional Cover- age Dallas at Philadelphia,	Hope & Faith "Mismatch" The King of Queens	NFL Football Regional Cover- age Buffalo at Cincinnati,
20:00	Gilmore Girls "The Reigning	Davis. Patients flock to a psy- chologist with fake credentials.	Minnesota at Detroit or Seattle at N.Y. Jets. (Live)	Denver at Kansas City, Houstor at Chicago or San Diego at	FOX News	Minnesota at Detroit or Seattle at N.Y. Jets. (Live)	Last Comic Standing	Denver at Kansas City, Houstor at Chicago or San Diego at
20:30	Lorelai* American Dreams *To Tell the	(:05) Movie ** "Behind Ene-	us 14. 1. JOIG. (LIVO)	Cleveland. (Live)	FOX News	un va. n. udio. (Live)	1	Cleveland. (Live)
21:00	American Dreams "To Tell the Truth"	my Lines" (2001, Action)			FUA NEWS		1	
22:00	The Cosby Show	Owen Wilson, Gene Hackman, Gabriel Macht.	NFL Football Regional Coverage	NFL Football Regional Coverage	Meet the Press	NFL Football Regional Coverage	Friends	NFL Football Regional Coverage
22:30	Home Improvement Touched by an Angel "It	Movie ★★ "Conan the De-	New Orleans Saints at Tampa Bay Buccaneers or St. Louis	- Jacksonville Jaguars at Green Bay Packers or Tennessee Titans	FNS with Chris Wallace	- New Orleans Saints at Tampa Bay Buccaneers or St. Louis	Seinfeld "The Strike" Mad TV	 Jacksonville Jaguars at Green Bay Packers or Tennessee Titans
23:30	Came Upon a Midnight Clear"	stroyer" (1984) Grace Jones	Rams at Arizona Cardinals.	at Öakland Raiders.		Rams at Arizona Cardinals.	l	at Öakland Raiders.



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FACES

Johnson back in the black

Don Johnson can breathe easy again

All the creditors listed on bankruptcy petitions involv-ing the former "Miami Vice" and "Nash Bridges" star have been paid off, Denver lawyer Lee Kutner said Tues-

Kutner said Johnson's companies should be emerging from bankruptcv soon

"He has obtained new financing." Kutner said.

Los Angeles-based City National Bank sued Johnson in March, seeking to force an auction of his 17-acre ranch near Aspen, Colo., to recoup \$930,000 it claimed he owed. The ranch was put up for sale for \$21 million, but Johnson ended up paying

the debt in time Other bills paid include Aspen Val-

ley Hospital (\$7,345), the Of Grape & Grain liquor store

(\$377), Aspen's Isberian Rug Co. (\$1,228), Planted Earth in Carbondale (\$764) and the Aspen law firm of Garfield & Hecht (\$2,787).

"He paid his bill and he paid it in full," said Joan Boyles, owner of Carbondale Crystal River Valley Spas, which was owed \$4,966

Royal champagne falls flat at auction

The sale of a magnum of champagne from the 1981 wed-



ding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles fizzled when auction bids

failed to reach the reserve price. Bidding for the bubbly fell flat at \$1.736, short of the \$1.929 reserve

price at an auction in Swindon, west of London, on Wednesday, The 1961 vintage Dom Perignon

 — chosen for the year of Diana's birth — was one of 12 magnums bottled in a limited edition for the royal wedding.

Auction house spokesman Dominic Winter said he was disappointed the bottle hadn't sold

"It just failed to perform. I guess people are not as willing as they used to be to spend their money on frivolous things," Winter said.

HIV-stricken singer in good health

Andy Bell, lead singer of synth-pop duo Erasure, said he was "feeling fine" six years after being diagnosed with HIV.

In a statement posted on Erasure's Web site, Bell, 40, said he had been diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS in 1998 after falling ill with pneumonia on a trip to the Spanish island of Mallorca

Bell, who recently had a double hip replacement, said he remained healthy and was "feeling fine — in

fact, I have never felt better."
"Being HIV does not mean that you have AIDS. My life expectancy should be the same as anyone else's

so there is no need to panic," he said. Bell and former Depeche Mode and Yazoo keyboardist Vince Clarke formed Erasure in 1985 and have had hits including "A Little Respect," "Sometimes" and "Ship of Fools.



Disney tapping India market

Walt Disney Co. will launch two new channels in English and regional languages in India — a market of 100 million preschool children — later this month.

The Disney Channel and the Toon Disney Channel will feature cartoons, animation movies, family dramas live-action adventure stories and locally produced and hosted shows, Rajat Jain, managing director of the Indian arm of Walt Disney Television International, said Wednesday

About 60 movies will be shown each month

"India is a priority market for us," Jain told reporters.
"With more than 100 million children, it's the world's biggest preschool market."

India will be the first Asia-Pacific market to air Toon Disney, an animation channel with characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, Jain said. The 24-hour channel will be available in English and Hindi in northern India, and in the Tamil and Telugu languages in the

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



to be is Snoop

Dogg, and

sometimes he

is a little

negative.

and sometimes he is a little

positive."

Snoop Dogg

BY GREG BRAXTON Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The group of young boys shifted un assily, eyes fixed on the gardyl of young boys shifted un-easily, eyes fixed on the gangly figure towering over them. They were an exclusive audience about to hear Snoop Dogg do his latest rap, But they didn't feel so lucky — they knew it was going to be a bad rap on them.

knew it was going to ea to an rap on them. "You better go gangsta — they can't beat us, so they're tryin' to cheat us!" snarled Snoop Dogg, tearing into the Rowland Heights Raiders, a team of 8 to 10-year-olds—including one of his two sons—in the Orange County Junior All-American Football League. The Raiders were taking on the Norwalk-Sonta Fe Springs Saints, and though the works they are a son a so the unbeaten Raiders were ahead by a touchdown at half-time, the Saints were breaking their spirit with rough-and-tumble play and crunch-"All I know how

ing tackles.

The eyes of a few Raiders were wet with rustration and pain. The eyes of Snoop were narrow with rage.

"You better get your minds right, or you're gonna get beat," the Raider coach growled. "I don't care about nothin' else, growed. I don't care about normin else, 'cause if you lose, I'm out! You're better than this team! You better get your focus back now, knowwhatImsayin'? Quit cryin' and do your job, get focused!" He gestured dismissively toward a cooler on the side lines: "Now go get some oranges or some

Snoop ignored the nearby crowd of par-ents and fans in the stands of the Rowland Heights High School football stadium snapping pictures and shouting out to him. This was not show time.

For now, nothing else mattered: Not his chart-topping "Drop It Like It's Hot" single with sizzling producer Phar-"Drop It Like It's Hot" single with sizzling producer Phar-rell Williams that has again made him the champagne toast of the rap/pop music world. Not his just-dropped album "R&G (Rhythm & Gangsta): The Masterpiece," al-ready a best seller. Not his star turns this year in films such as "Starsky & Hutch" and "Soul Plane" that en-deared him to a cross-section of moviegers. Not his grow, it status as a pitchman for corporate charelong, desperate for another notch in the win column. He says the queet for a chemistanchic product with his lower is proceed fulfilling.

for another noten in the win column. He says the quest for a championship trophy with his boys is more fulfilling than acting or music, his two "girlfriends." And the tirade worked — the Raiders trounced the Saints in the second half. Overjoyed, Snoop jumped and clowned around with the team in a victory celebration, then ran to a truck in the parking lot to award each player with a brand-new WRFF

buce.

Seeps united the conflicting sides of Stoop that have made him practically uniquinous in 100y's spot culture—the streetwise former thing from Long Beach who can "throw down" when pushed against the wall, the showman who shines in the spotlight, and the playful, generous artist who can turn into a 6-foot, 34-inch kid at a moment's notice. As the rapper juggles his various prospects, youth sports has provided him much needed belance

amid the showbiz whirlwind enveloping him

amad the showbiz whirtwind enveloping him. More than 10 years after his lazy, distinctive drawls made him one of the top original gangsta rappers on the man of the top original gangsta rappers on the sequitted of first, and second-degree nurder charges in the shooting death of a Los Angeles gang member, Snoop Dogg (who was born Calvin Broadus) wants to urur Hollywood into — to quote one of his hits — "a Doggy Dogg world."

World.

Playing off his dual images as a no-nonsense gangsta
with Pied Piper appeal who can poke fun at himself, the
33-year-old is tackling a dizzying array of diverse projects designed to position him as a hip-hopper who can maneu-ver easily between the arenas of mainstream popular culture and hard-core rap. New ventures range from small in-

dependent films to clothing lines to video

organies to animated series. Seemingly already unavoidable with his commercials, film appearances, TV guest shots and music videos, Snoop, along with the prestigious management company the Firm, is determined to fur-

company the Firm, is determined to fur-ther boost the profile of Snoop Inc.
"There's a definite strategy to what we're doing as far as shaping Snoop's fu-ture," said Constance Schwartz, the rap-per's manager. "We don't want him every-where, but we want him in all the right places. He's proven that he can do cam-eos in movies, and now he wants to prove he's a serious actor." he's a serious actor.

While rappers such as Will Smith, Ice Cube, Queen Latifah, Eve and Missy Elliott have crossed over, most have opted to soften the harsh edge that first estab-lished them in the hip-hop world. Not so

Snoop Dogg; he's been able to make the leap without undermining his outlaw image.

References to drug use and violence peppered through

out "Drop It Like It's Hot" are overshadowed by a sing-song chorus and an infectious percussive beat that could feel at home on any schoolyard playground. He was able to jump back and forth between his "Dogg Fizzle Television" MTV comedy series and less savory projects such as his video "Doggstyte Vol 1."

Recently he presented a lifetime achievement award to its friend, and mentor Dr. Dre. Snoop was in midtribute when Dre was attacked and a melee broke out in the audi-noce. Though Snoop was not involved in the roic, he issued a warning onstage when the fracas calmed down: "If y'all want troblems with me and mor crew, we want orroblems. out "Drop It Like It's Hot" are overshadowed by a

a warning onstage when the tracas caimed down: "if y ail want problems with me and my crew, we want problems, too. So leave Dre alone and come see us." Remarked comedian Jimmy Kimmel on his ABC late-night show: "Snoop took the smoldering embers of ha-

Tred — and poured on some soothing gasoline."

Whether they're G-rated or X-rated, Snoop says, all his projects have a sincerity behind them that accounts for his wide appeal.

"All I know how to be is Snoop Dogg, and sometimes he is a little negative, and sometimes he is a little positive," he says. "But for the most part, he's going to do more right

STARS STRIPES | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Keep Christmas in your heart

Recently, we celebrated Thanksgiving here in Iraq and in the States. It was a joy ous time, a time for celebration. I look forward to next Thanksgiving, as it will be my first with my wife

Although we are in Iraq, we must not forget both the celebration and the symbolism behind Christmas. Christmas is more than just a time kids go and see Santa Claus, or families come together and exchange gifts. It is a time we must rememher the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ It is a joyous time of celebration, it is a wonder-

Although we are at war, this is no reason to sideline Christmas. We must, as men-tioned in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," keep Christmas in our heart. I am here in Iraq serving my country. However, I will not forget Christmas. I will keep Christmas in my heart and share the won

der of this season with everyone. In "A Christmas Carol," Tiny Tim said: "God bless us, every one." I, too, want to echo that thought to all who serve in Iraq, and the families who wait for us back home. Go in peace.

Spc. Michael Carl Tanner Camp Victory, Iraq

Let women, not civilians. decide

I just read an article from The Washington Times from Dec. 9. Elaine Donnelly, who heads the Center for Military Readiness, is charging the Army with violating the ban on women in combat units.

I don't understand why civilians are so concerned with this issue. I have never heard fellow combat-support females complain about being assigned to a combat-arms unit. This is something that those of us in the military understand can hap-

With the war on terrorism, there are no front lines. We have women here who travel the roads every day, just like their combat-arms counterparts. If we don't put women in the new "units of action," then what is the Army going to do with the thousands of women who proudly serve their country?

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity,

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Please let those of us filling the jobs that take us into combat decide our future, not civilians who have never even put on the uniform

Staff Sgt. Crystal Thompson Forward Operating Base Danger, Iraq

Understand meaning of 'theory'

Once again, a letter is written calling evolution "just a theory" ("Evolution is still a theory," Dec. 9).

I have to wonder what these people were doing when the concept of a scientific theory was taught in their science class-

Scientific theories such as the theory of gravity, cell theory, cancer theory and evolutionary theory are conclusions about phenomena based on rigorous and extensive bodies of research data.

Compare this to the childish conjectures of so-called "creation scientists." I recall attending a creationist seminar where the instructor claimed, with a straight face, that the Loch Ness Monster is proof that man and dinosaurs walked the earth together. I was almost surprised that unicorns, dragons and the tooth fairy did not receive mention

Right now, there is a war being fought that makes the war in Iraq seem like a minor neighborhood spat. It is the war to protect us from the next pandemic and it is being fought by people in lab coats called evolutionary biologists against an

enemy so small that trillions can fit on the head of a pin. This enemy has the potential to wipe out hundreds of millions of people. These biologists know that this enemy is rapidly evolving and is now resistant to all but a few of the newest drugs. Knowing that these viruses reproduce within minutes

and mutate (evolve) very quickly forms the basis for the research and development needed to stay ahead of this menace. I challenge my creationist brethren to reject all of these new medications if they cannot accept the scientific theory behind their development.

John McDowell

Sembach Air Base, Germany Creationism is a belief

"Evolution is still a theory" (letter, Dec. 9) incorrectly equates a theory with an opinion or a belief.

It's true that no theory is a fact (by definition); a theory is used in science to explain facts. Its usefulness is defined by how well it accounts for the facts it attempts to explain.

In this regard, evolution theory has parsimony, subtlety and great predictive power. A theory must also be verifiable and falsifiable — that is, you must be able

to prove it right or prove it wrong.

Creationism, which the letter writer refers to as "another theory," does not qualify as a scientific theory on this basis because it can never be disproven. In short, creationism is a belief, and has no business being discussed as, or equated with, a theory.

Evolution theory is one of the great ideas of modern civilization. I commend Stars and Stripes for reporting on the continued contributions of this magnificent theory to our understanding of human na-

> Jeffrey Card Bamberg, Germany

Doonesbury









Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons











Horoscope

aimless wandering around while the moon is void of course this morning.

but the lunar transit into Aries this afternoon helps us get down to business and make up for lost time Mercury is still retrograde. so if you're out doing your shopping, just make sure you leave the stores with everything you came in with

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 18). You're in

excellent company this year vou surround vourself with people you admire and so will you raise yourself to the high standards they set. A windfall involves seizing your chance in the spotlight in January. You'll transition to a new home or job in March. Singles are extremely choosy, which is why love is such a thrill in the spring

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're making a major time investment into someone, and you want to feel emotionally protected for that investment. This is the day to lay claim to the relationship by telling the other person what you'd like it to be. If it's love, say so

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Indecision and spending time on the decision-making process are not the same thing. You'll deliberate the consequences of a potential action at length. This you do not because you're afraid or crafty, but because you are wise

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Friends call you wanting to vent, grieve, complain and kill time. This is

an abuse of sorts - recognize it as such, and get off the phone. You're on a mission and simply can't afford to be an emotional dumping ground for others

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You feel like you're at the mercy of someone who is really busy. But there's no reason you should feel honored by scraps of attention and stolen moments. Place your energies where you know you'll get something in return

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). On a surface level, you are what you think

you are. But on a spiritual plane, even your own negative thoughts cannot diminish you. You'll automatically choose plenty of those, so choose some good thoughts to counteract.

Holiday Mathis

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Come on, we all have an inner madman. Yours has been under lock and key lately, but it's safe to let him out for good behavior this weekend. Loved ones find your unpredictability so attractive

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be around plenty of bright people this weekend, and the spirit of competition is

high. Instead of struggling to keep up, struggle to be genuine. Success goes not to he who knows more but to he who knows better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Clear (or burn) clutter, return phone calls, and deep-clean. By doing so, you plug up those little energetic leaks in your psyche - remember, little leaks sink big ships! Besides. getting organized is actually fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be exercising your capac-

ity to love unconditionally - that is, to give with no expectation of a return. As in any exercise, start small and incrementally work your way up so as not to strain a muscle.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan 19). Emotional balance is your aim. Stress and problems are a naturally occurring part of life, but you cope so gracefully that everything thrown your way seems rather minor - and

AOUARIUS (Ian. 20-Feb. 18).

You're tempted to waste the day away reading. News flash: It's not a waste! Mental exercises such as reading and meditation help you gain greater control over your thoughts, which leads to greater control over your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You come to an intersection. Down

one road, you see many hills and valleys and a glorious but very distant oasis at the end. The other road curves suddenly so that you can't see a thing. How adventurous do you feel?

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Beetle Baile

Rover

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Peanuts





















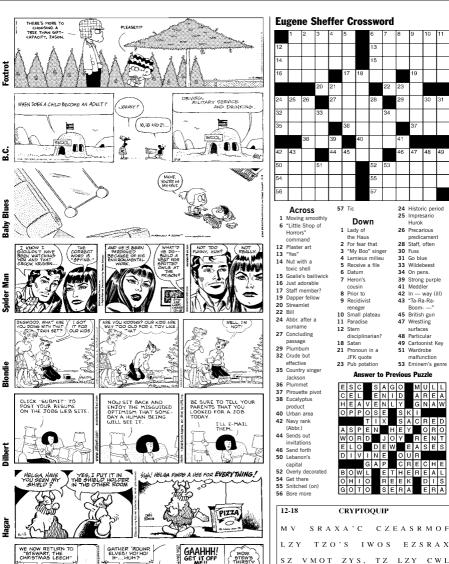


YOU CAN TALK





Saturday, December 18, 2004 · STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 27



GET IT OFF!!

EZSRAX

SZ VMOT ZYS. ΤZ LZY CWL

SRA IZXT"?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO CHEER UP A SAD PERSON ON VALENTINE'S DAY, I RECKON YOU HAVE TO SAY "TAKE HEART!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals M

Work dodger should seek help

Dear Abby: I have a good job, a nice house, a great family and great friends — but I'm misera-

I hate my job, but instead of quitting, I call in sick. It has put me in danger of getting fired. I lie to my husband about the work I miss, and since I handle the finances, he doesn't realize what an impact it has. I feel like a horrible person, but I'm afraid to quit and go somewhere

able to make the same money elsewhere. I'm also afraid my husband will find out and be furious. I feel I'm putting my family in financial jeopardy and risking everything because I

else. I have no other

skills, and I wouldn't be

can't show up for work. I'm not sure what's wrong with me. I just wake up some mornings and can't face going in, so I hide out in our house and pretend that I go to work. I feel lazy and worthless. I think I may be depressed, but some weeks or

months I feel fine. What should I

Going Crazy in Arizona Dear Going: May I offer a couple of suggestions? Your mood swings may be chemical. Make an appointment with your physician, explain what's going

on and get a referral to a psychotherapist. Once that's done, pick up the phone and find the nearest school that offers career counseling. You may have more marketable skills than you give yourself

credit for. Please don't put it off. Hiding from your husband will only make this worse. The longer you hide it, the

more upset he will be when he learns what has been happening

Dear Abby: For years you have printed letters from grandparents complaining that they don't receive thank-you notes. Well, I have a question: Do these

their grandchildren for gifts ve received from the em? I'm an active senior with 25 grand. children. No matter how small the gift, I always write them a

thank-you note. Each child in a family gets his own. This year, I received a pencil, a hand-drawn picture. and some 99-cent earrings, among other things. They all merited a note.

The children love getting their own thank-you note And as soon as children can print "Thank you" they should be encouraged to send their own

- Ohio Granny

Dear Granny: I commend you for setting such a wonderful example for your grandchildren. One of the secrets of writing an effective thank-vou is to do it immediately after receiving the gift, while the reaction is sponta-

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

TOO MANY

DOUGHNUTS MAY

NOT BE WHOLE-

SOME BUT

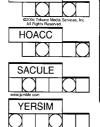
Now arrange the circled letters to

THEY ARE

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words MONDE HOACC

> form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Answer here:

(Answers Monday) Jumbles: TAKEN POWER ANEMIA THEORY Answer What she accomplished at her full-time job --PART-TIME WORK



Family Circus



"The wires behind the computer need untangling too, Daddy.'

Husband is privately oppressive

Dear Annie: I have been married for two years to a man who an pears to be the perfect gentleman. "Archie" is well liked in the community and seems to be a great husband and father, showering me and the children with attention and compliments in public. The problem is, he is a completely different man at home. He yells at the children for trivial

things, and has pushed my 6-year-old and knocked him Archie monitors my phone calls, interrogating me and staying right by my side until the conversation is over. When he isn't home, he has caller ID units around the house to track incoming calls. He has hidden digital tape recorders in vehicles I drive and even hacks into my e-mail. I am not allowed to go outside and

unwind with my neighbor after a

day of taking care of a house and

five children unless he is sitting

right there, or harassing me



every five seconds to come inside

I insisted Archie go for counseling, but he is so smooth he tells the counselor what he wants to hear and then goes right back to the same old thing. We currently are separated, and I have a protective order against him for assault and battery

I am concerned that so many people do not know about Archie's other side. I don't want to create trouble for him or smear him in the community, but I am tired of people thinking he is some kind of saint who is being unjustly accused. They have no idea what he is really like. What should I say to them?

Dixie in D.C.

Dear Dixie: Nothing. It's none of their business, and more importantly, you may be putting yourself or your children in jeop-ardy if Archie finds out you are publicizing his abusive behavior. Even those folks who believe he is saintly have their private

doubts. The truth eventually will surface. Don't rush it.

Dear Annie: "Potty-Peeved in El Paso" might feel hetter about her neighbor's lawn toilet if she maintains a good sense of

Our town periodically rewards folks who have beautiful yards. When getting rid of an ugly green toilet, we took it to our daughter's yard, put plastic flowers in it, along with any other cheesy lawn ornament we could find, and attached a sign saying "Mayor's Beautification Award." Her elderly neighbor

actually congratulated her.

— Royal Flush in Wisconsin Dear Wisconsin: You must have great neighbors. Not every one could handle a green toilet with flamingoes as a lawn deco ration. Thanks for a good laugh. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Synd cate, 577 W. Century Blyd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 9045. Creators Syndicate







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AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.-NBA: Phoenix at Seattle
(dld).

ATN-Pacific, S. p.m.-College football: NCAA ANN-Pacific, S. p.m.-College football: NCAA Jivision IIII championship game, Mary Hari-ni Baylor Vs. Linlei College basketball: Ken-ucky at Louisville. AFN-Atlantic and Radio, 7:30 p.m.-NFL: Yttsburgh at N.Y. Giants. Wittsburgh at N.Y. Giants. College basketball: AFN-Pacific, 8 p.m.-College basketball: AFN-Pacific, 8 p

rquette. ntic. 11 p.m.-College basketball: AEN.A okianoma vs. Duke.

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.-College baskketball:
Michigan at UCLA.

AFN-Pacific and Radio, 11 p.m.-NFL: Washington at San Francisco. oma vs. D

Sunday

nr-racific, 2 a.m.-College basketball: Mis-issippi St. at Xavier. AFN-Sports and Radio, 2:30 a.m.-NFL: Caro-ina at Atlanta. AFN-Sports. 6:30 a.m. 0:11

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-College basketball: 3onzaga vs. Georgia Tech. AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.-Golf: PGA Tour ear-End Special (did).
AFN-Sports, 19:30 a.m.-Golf: Three Tour
hallenge (did).
AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m.-College basketball:
klahoma St. at UNLV (did).
AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.-NBA: Denver at Orando (did).
AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.-NFL: Minnesota at DeAFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.-NFL: Minnesota at De-

AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.-NFL: Buffalo at Cincinati. AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-NFL: Seattle at N.Y.

AFN-Radio, 7 p.m.-NFL: Denver at Kansas AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m.-NFL: New Orleans at AFN Bay. Pacific, 10 p.m.-NFL: Jacksonville at AFN-Sports and Radio, 10 p.m.-NFL: St. Louis at Δrizona.

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Pro football

x-clinched division
Saturday's ga
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Glant's
Washington at San Franci
Carolina at Atlanta
Sunday's gar
Houston at Chicago
Minnesota at Detroit
Seattle at N.Y. Jets
Denver at Kansas City
Buffalo at Cincinnati
Dalias at Philadelphia

Dallas at Philadelphia San Diego at Cleveland St. Louis at Arizona. New Orleans at Tampa Bay Jacksonville at Green Bay. Tennessee at Oakland Baltimore at Indianapolis

maitimore at Indianapolis Monday's game New England at Miami Friday's games Green Bay at Minnesota Saturday, Dec. 25 Oakland at Kansas City

Sunday, Dec. 26 Chicago at Detroit an Diego at Indianapolis Iltimore at Pittsburgh Juston at Jacksonville Atlanta at New Orleans N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati Buffalo at San Francisco New England at N.Y. Jets Arizona at Seattle Washington at Dallas Carolina at Tampa Bay

Cleveland at Miami Monday, Dec. 27 Philadelphia at St. Louis

College football

Division I-A playoffs

Championship Friday, Dec. 17 At Finley Stadium/Daver-Chattaner IES Madies At Finley Stadium/Davenport Field Chattanooga, Tenn. nes Madison (12-2) vs. Montana (12-2)

Division III playoffs

Championship Saturday, Dec. 18 Stagg Bowl At Salem Stadium At Salem Stadium Salem, Va. (12-0)

NAIA playoffs

Championship
Saturday, Dec. 18
At Jim Carroll Stadium
Hardin County, Tenn.
St. Francis, Ind. (13-0) vs. Carr
(11-2) roll. Mont

Bowl glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14 New Orleans Bowl Payout: \$750,000 Southern Mississippi 31, North Tuesday, Dec. 21 Champs Sports Bow At Orlando, Fla. h Texas 10

st Orlando, Fla.

Payout: \$850,000

Georgia Tech (6-5) vs. Syracuse (6-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 22

GMAC Bowl

Mobile, Ala

Mobile, Ala.
Payout: \$750,000
Memphis (8-3) vs. Bowling Gra
Thursday Payout: \$750,000 \$ (8-3) vs. Bowling Green (8-3) Thursday, Dec. 23 Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl Payout: \$750,000 ati (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)

For Payout 1, \$750,000 will be a special to \$750,000 will be \$750,000 will

Late (6.3) vs. Virginis (6.3) Motor City Bowl Park (6.4) was a second of the city of t

Emerald Bowl At San Francisco Payout: \$750,000 Payout: \$750,000

co (7-4) vs. Navy (9-2)

Holiday Bowl

At San Diego

Payout: \$2 million

1 (10-1) vs. Texas Tech (7-4)

Silicon Valley Classic

At San Jose, Calif.

Payout: \$750,000

us. Northern Illinois (8-3)

Payout: \$750,000 vs. Northern Illinois (8-3) Friday, Dec. 31 Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. Payout: \$780,000 5-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5)

Payout: \$780,000
abama (6-5) vs. Minnesota (6-5)
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: \$1.5 million
rdue (7-4) vs. Arizona State (6-3)
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: \$1.35 million
ise State (1-0) vs. Louisville (10-1)

Peach Bowl At Atlanta Payout: \$2.2 millio vs. Florida (7-4) Saturday, Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl At Dallas Payout: \$3 millior

Payout: \$3 million 1-3) vs. Texas A&M (7-4) Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. Lyout: \$2.75 million At Langus At Lan

ate (8-3) vs. West Vi Capital One Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Payout: \$5.187 milli vs. LSU (9-2) Rose Bowl

At Pasadena, Calif. Payout: \$14.5 million 9-2) vs. Texas (10-1)

vs. Texas (10-1) Fiesta Bowl Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Payout: \$11-14 milli)) vs. Pittsburgh (8-3 Monday, Jan. 3 Sugar Bowl At New Orleans

Memory, John J.
As New Orleans
As New Orleans
Auburn (12-0) vs. Virginia Tech (10-2)
TO Yange Bowl
A Miami
Power Market Missilion
Southern Cal (12-0) vs. Oklahoma (12-0)
Gerdiron Classic
Gerdiron Classic
Month vs. South Williams, File
Month vs. Sou

ist-West Shrine Classic At San Francisco t Saturday, Jan. 22 Hula Bowl At Maui, Hawaii

Saturday, Jan. 29 Senior Bowl At Mobile, Ala.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 schedule

Saturday's games No. 2 Kansas vs. South Carolini No. 3 Georgia Tech vs. No. 22 No. 3 Georgia Tech vs. No. 22 Gonzaga at the Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas No. 4 Oklahoma State at UNLV No. 6 Wake Forest vs. No. 14 Texas No. 7 Duke vs. Oklahoma at Madison Square Garden

No. 7 Duke vs. Oklahoma at Ma Square Garden No. 8 Syacuse vs. Drexel No. 9 Kentucky at No. 13 Louisville No. 10 Pittsburgh vs. Coppin State No. 15 Arizona at Marquette No. 16 Iowa vs. Western Carolina No. 17 Alabama vs. Tennessee State .17 Alabama vs. Tennessee State 19 George Washington vs. Towson 20 Mississippi State at Xavier 21 Michigan State vs. Delaware State 25 Cincinnati vs. Northwestern State Sunday's games

No. 1 Illinois vs. Valparalso No. 5 North Carolina at Virginia Tech No. 11 Connecticut vs. Rice No. 12 North Carolina State at No. 18 Wash-

ington No. 23 Maryland vs. Florida State

Thursday's men's scores

EAST Catawba 81, Bluefield St. 67 Mount Vernon Nazarene 84, Roberts Wes

Arkansas 96, Tennessee 51, 68
Houston 78, New Orleans 65
Houston Baptist 92, SW Assemblie
Newman 64, Incarnate Word 58
North Texas 95, Southern U. 73
Ohlo St. 77, Texas Tech 71
Rice 81, Lamar 75

Rice 81, Lamar 75 SMU 77, Baylor 43 SW Oklahoma 59, Trinity, Texas 53 Texas Lutheran 88, Austin 46 Texas-Pan American 82, Texas-Permian

FAR WEST Portland St. 80, Bethune-Cookman 60

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Thursday

1. LSU (9-0) did not play. Next: at South 1. LSU (9-0) did not play, Next: at South-west Missouri State, Saturday, Next: at Mis-souri, Saturday, 10d not play, Next: xt Mis-souri, Saturday, 3. Duke (9-1) did not play, Next: vs. No. 20 Purdue at Indianapolis, Saturday, 4. Texas (7-2) beat North Texas 79-54. Next: vs. Texas-Arington, Tuesday, Dec. 21. 5. North Carolina (8-1) did not play, Next: vs. Ceorgila State at Myrthe Beach, S.C., Sun-

dy. 6. Baylor (8-1) did not play. beat Washing-6. Baylor (8-1) did not play, beat Washing-ton 74-58. Next: vs. Florida. Sunday. 7 Notre Dame 9-1) did not play. Next: at 1. Connecticut (4-1) did not play. Next: at No. 23 Arizona State, Tuesday, Dec. 21. 9. Tennessee (6-2) did not play. beat Louisi-ana Tech 70-59. 10. Ohio State (9-1) did not play. Next: at 10. Ohio State (9-1) did not play.

na Tech 70-59. 10. Ohio State (9-1) did not play. Next: at iregon, Saturday. 11. Michioan State (8-1) did not play. Next: vegun, asturagy, visit (8-1) did not play. Next: I. Michigan State (8-1) did not play. Next: Vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Sunday, vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Sunday, J. S. Mignesota (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. Land State (8-2) did not play. Next: at 14. Boston College (7-1) did not play. Next: at 15. Georgia (7-3) did not play. Next: at 16. UCLG (8-1) did not play. Next: at 16. UCLG (8-1) did not play. Next: at 111 nots.

Sunday.

17. Vanderbilt (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. BYU at Mailbu, Calif., Monday, Dec. 20.

18. Maryland (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Coppin State, Monday, Dec. 20.

19. Houston (9-0) beat Hawaii 66-55. 191 Houston (5-0) héar Hawaii 66-55. 20. Purdue (6-2) did not play, Next: vs. No. 30 uke at Indianapolis, Saturday, 21. DePaul (7-2) did not play, beat North-ern Illinois 73-56. 22. Rutgers (5-2) did not play, lost to Tem-ple 71-60, Next: vs. Clemson, Saturday, at New Mexico, Saturday, 24. Iowa (8-0) did not play, Next: at Drake, Saturday. Saturday. 25. Kansas State (5-2) did not play. Next:

Thursday's women's scores

Bluefield St. 68, W. Virginia St. 53 Clemson 80, Wagner 50 Long Island U. 68, New Orleans 55 SOUTH Anderson, S.C. 86, Francis Marion 59 Appalachian St. 65, Campbell 45 Coastal Carolina 73, Savannah St. 45 Fla. International 68, Northwestern 55 James Madison 75, Charleston Southern 66

Kockford 75, Dubuque 71
Washburn 73, Evangel 42
Wisconsin 104, Sanfa Clara 91
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 82, Louislana-Lafayete 68
Austin 67, Texas Lutheran 56
Houston Baptist 89, SW Assemblies of God 37
Lamar 69, Prairle View 20

Larnar 69, Prairie View 50 Texas 79, North Texas 54 Texas-Pan American 92, Texas-Permian skin 45

FAR WEST Arizona 96, UC Santa Barbara 80 Houston 66, Hawaii 55 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 75, Nevada 52

Baseball

Remaining free agents NEW YORK (AP) — The 131 remaining fr gents (a-offered arbitration and may ne agents (a-offered arbitr tiate with former team ers have until Dec. 19 to

in the state of th

Omar Daal, Ihp; Buddy Groom, Ihp; David Segul, dh. 31.3 — Terry Adams, rhp; 3.-Pedro Assaclo, rhp; Ellis Burks, dh; a-Orlando Cabrera, sss; Ricky Guttierez, Dr. Curtls Leskanic, rhp; a-Derek Lowe, rhp; a-Dave McCarty, Lb; Ramiro Mendoza, rhp; a-Mise Myers, Ihp; Brantion Mendoza, rhp; a-Mise Myers, Ihp; Cartick, C; Scott Williamson, rhp; a-Jason Varitek, c; Scott Williamson, rhp; a-Jason Varitek, c; Scott CHICAGO (3) — Roberto Alomar, 2b; Maggio Ordonez, qf; Jose Valentin, ss. CLEYLAND (1) — Rick Willie; rhp.

DETROIT (1) — Alan Levine, rhp.
KANSAS CHT (3) — Juan Gonzalez, of; Joe
Randa, 30; Desi Relatord, 3, Galro, 2b; Tony
Clark, Ib; a-Orlando Hernandez, rhp; Travist,
Lee, Ib; Esteban Loalza, rhp; CL. Nifkowski,
lip; John Olerud, Ib; a-Ruben Sierra, dh; Enrique Wilson, 2b.

OAKLAND (3) — Chris Hammond, lhp; Jim lecir, rhp; Mark McLemore, 2b. SEATTLE (2)— Edgar Martinez, dh; a-Ron illone, lhp. TAMPA BAY (4) — Brook Fordyce, c; Tino fartinez. 1b: Todd Ritchie. rhp: Rev Martinez, 1b; Todd Ritchie, rhp; Rey Sanchez, 2b.

TEXAS (9) — a-David Dellucci, of; Andy Fox, 3b; Brad Fullmer, dh; Rusty Greer, of; Brian Jordan, of; Jeff Nelson, rhp; Herbert Perry, dh; Jay Powell, rhp; Jeff Zimmerman, rhn.

rnp. TORONTO (5) — Dave Berg, of; Valerio De Los Santos, lhp; Carlos Delgado, 1b; Pat Hent-

TORONTO GS — Dave Berg, Or, veerus on Santon, Brotzon begaldo, be Patt Veerus on Santon, Brotzon begaldo, be Patt Veerus on Santon, Brotzon begaldo, be Patt Veerus on Santon, Brotzon Grand, Brotz Marchael, Brotz White, lhp.

COLORADO (6) — Jeromy Burnitz, of:
Shawn Estes, lhp; a-Todd Greene, c; Steve
Pend rhp; Mark Sweeney of:

Wright, rip.
FLORIDA (5) — Chad Fox, rhp; Josias Manzanillo, rhp; Milke Mordecai, 3b; a-Carl Pavano, rhp; a-ismael Valdez, rhan, of; Dan
Mouston (3) — a-Carlos Beltran, of; Dan
Micell, rhp; Darren Oliver, lhp,
LOS ANGELES (10) — a-Wilson Alvarez, lhp;
a-Adrian Beltre, 3b; Elmer Dessens, rhp;
Todd Hundley, c; Jose Lima, rhp; a-Brent
Mayne, c; Hideo Nomo, rhp; a-Odalls Perez,

Async, c. Hidde Nomo, mp; a-Odalis Perez, pp; Paul Shuey, rhg Robin Ventura, 1b. MONTREAL (1) — Tony Batista, 3b. NEW YORK (0) — Ricky Bottallor, rhp; John NEW YORK (0) — Ricky Bottallor, rhp; John PHILADELPHIA (5) — a-Doug Glanville, of boberto Hernandez, rhp; Kevin Millwood, hp; Eric Milton, lhp; a-Placido Polanco, 2b. PITTSBURGH (1)— Brian Boethinger, rhp. STUDIS (4)— Steven Boethinger, rhp. STUDIS (4)— STUDIS (4)— Steven Boethinger, rhp. STUDIS (4)— STUD

ord, 0f; draugan remeria, 35, ar 101, mack, 2b. SAN DIEGO (6) — Andy Ashby, rhp; Rich Aurilla, ss; Robert Fick, dh; Alex Gonzalez, ss; Dave Hansen, 1b; Antonio Osuna, rhp. SAN FRANCISCO (3) — Dave Burba, rhp; a-lason Christiansen, lhp; Robb Nen, rhp. Deals

Thursday's transactions

I nurs Gay St rrans actions

BASEBALL

AMAHEM ANKING TO STEEL OF THE TO STEEL

Danny Watkins scouts.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms with INF juan Uribe on a three-year contract.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Traded RIP Jorge vasquez to Atlanta for OF Ell Marrero and tash: Traded C Benito Santiago and cash of the C Benito Santiago and cash of the C Benito Santiago and cash to littsburgh for RHP Leo Nunez and a player on be naghed or cash.

to be named or cash.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with
LHP Terry Mulholland on a minor-league conact. OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Traded RHP Tim ludson to Atlanta for LHP Dan Meyer, RHP udson to Atlanta for LmE Dail Micycl, uan Cruz and OF Charles Thomas. SFATTLE MARINERS—Designated INF Luis

Ugueto for assignment.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Named Joe Szekely manager and R.C. Lichtenstein pitching coach of the Southwest Michigan Devil Rays of the Midwest league.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Agreed to terms with LHP Scott Downs on a minor league con-ATLANTA BRAVES—Agreed to te

RHP John Smoltz on a two-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Named Answorth A.
Allen team physician and Struan Coleman
and Andrew Perle assistant team physi-

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Placed G Erick Strickand on the injured list.
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Walved G eno Carlisle. TORONTO RAPTORS—Waived G Roger Mason Jr.
Women's National Basketball Association
WNBA—Named Dee Kantner supervisor of

COLLEGE Named Greg Hudson de-EAST CAROLINA EAST CAROLINA—Named Greg Hudson de-fensive coordinator.
ELON—Named Darren Powell men's soc-ELON—Named John Holliday to the foot-ball coaching staff.
GEORGE MASON—Named Scot Budde as-sistant swimming and diving coach. MANHATTAN—Named Michael Swanick men's soccer coach and Sean Driscoll wom-en's soccer coach. MISSISSIPPI—Named Ed Orgeron football oach. MORAVIAN—Named Scott Sullivan men's issistant lacrosse coach. NORFOLK STATE—Fired Willie Gillus, foot-

OHIO—Named Frank Solich football coach SOUTH CAROLINA—Named John Thomo

SOUTH CAROLINA—Named John Thomp-son defensive coordinator. SOUTHERN CAL—Named Rick Majerus men's basketball coach, effective April 1. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI—Announced bas-ketball G Solomon Brown has taken an indef-

TANK McNamara MURRAY, NOW I'M BEING NAMED IN A CLASS-ACTION LAWSUIT FOR MAKING THOSE COMMERCIALS FOR THE DRUG THAT THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY RECALLED





Union blasts owners' response to its salary rollback proposal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL players' association is taking its ca public

Annoved and dismayed by financial figures they call "absolute ly ridiculous," NHLPA officials ought to discredit projections that the NHL made when it rejected the union's proposal for a new

collective bargaining agreement. The NHL lockout reached its 93rd day Friday and has wiped out 430 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star Game.

Negotiations broke off Tuesday after the NHL rejected a players proposal that featured a 24-percent salary rollback. The league handed back a salary cap-structured counteroffer that also was turned down during the 31/2-hour meeting in Toronto.

"They based their reaction to our significant proposal by saying they'd be right back where they were. Well, that's a bunch of hogwash," union head Bob Goodenow said. "They mixed up and diced up statistics in a blender and came out with what I think are absolutely ridiculous forecasts."

No new negotiations are scheduled, leaving the NHL perilously close to becoming the first North American sports league to lose a season to a labor dispute.

"It is a lockout that's going to extend for an awful long time if the parties aren't able to try to work together," Goodenow said

Although no drop-dead date has been set, there figures to be about a month of negotiating time left to save the season. The lockout during the 1994-95 season ended on Jan. 11 and allowed for a 48-game regular season to be played

The players' association al-

44 They mixed up and diced up statistics in a blender and

came out with what I think are absolutelu ridiculous

forecasts 17

NHI PA chief

ready believed that the NHL's financial figures were off when they saw them in the counterproposal. After a few days of crunching numbers, the union made sure to let everyone know just how wrong it feels the amounts are.

Using a 3-year projection based on league numbers, the NHLPA said its offer would produce a \$275.5 million profit for teams as opposed to a \$568.5 million loss, as stated by the NHL

"They were desperate to miserize things and try to throw a high, hard one past a lot Goodenow said. of people. "That's why we've taken the time to go back and restate reality

The NHL countered that projected league revenues would go up 3 percent annually over the next three seasons while player costs would rise by an average of 12.1 percent

By its calculations, the league figured to lose \$71.7 million in the 2004-05 season, \$183.9 million the following season, and \$312.9

in the third year Goodenow said the league took nue and increased that amount by only 3 percent, a figure far below the NHL's self-reported number of 9.4 — the amount of average growth the NHL said it had the

past 10 years.
"We stand behind the 3-percent average annual growth projection we used for our modeling, particularly for a business that will be coming out of an extended shutdown," Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said Thursday. "We do not believe the union's public negotiation with the media warrants any further comment.

plugging those numbers in the NHLPA claimed its latest pro-posal would generate a profit of \$58 million in the 2004-05 season, and \$91.5 million and \$126 mil-

lion in subsequent years. We are not saying that revenues will grow by 9.4 percent or player costs by 12.1 percent in the next few years," Goodenow said. "We believe the numbers from the last five-year, post-expansion era have far greater relevance. According to the league's own numbers, over the last five years on a per team basis revenues have on average increased 7.8 percent while player costs have increased

an average of 7.3 percent. In using those figures, Goode now said a \$411.9 million profit would be produced instead of a \$568.5 million loss — a difference of \$980.4 million from the league's projections.

"All we're saying is you have to compare apples with apples," NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin said. "Don't take a plug number of 12.1 percent in player costs, which were experienced during a time of rapid revenue growth in the '90s, and then ignore the revenue number from that same time period.



Tracy Sloan expresses her feelings about the **NHL** lockout during a league game in Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday Canadians view the stoppage

much like

Americans

North of the border, more indifference

BY DAVID POLLAK San Jose Mercury News

VANCOUVER, British Columbia - It was supposed to be differ-

But three months into an NHL lockout poised to erase an entire season. Canada is not having an emotional meltdown. The Great White North is reacting much more like the United States than

expected.
Oh, fans were angry in September when players and owners made it clear they were living on different economic planets and the league shut down

But now "I thought it'd be rougher than it's turned out to be," said Tom O'Brien, 39.

"We miss it, but life goes on said Jamie Palmer, 27, who still plays the game and, as a spectahas found alternatives to the NHL's Canucks

All of which is bad news for oth sides in the labor dispute. Nor can either party be happy with the results of a Vancouver Province online survey 10 days ago that asked readers if it mattered whether the NHL salvages the rest of its season. Seven ty-seven percent said no.

In Canada? Where TV ads for Molson's feature burly men singing the lyrics of Boy George -"Do you really want to hurt me? Do you really want to make me in a lockout lament.

Where are the withdray symptoms? Where is the rage? withdrawal

We're holding up surprising well" aid Dan Russell, a CKNW sports talk radio host whose Vancouver-based program is aired throughout British Columbia. "I'm surprised at how few irate callers we get It's not as if the media isn't play-

ing every angle. It was front-page news Dec. 3 when players invited owners to resume negotiations Sportswriters have toured Europe, tracking NHL skaters in evile Columnists have called for heads to roll Polls in Canada show more sup-

port for owners, though the mar-gin has been shifting.

"The first two months of the lockout 80 to 90 percent of the callers were on the owners' side, said Russell, whose program is marking its 20th anniversary, "but I sense the pendulum has moved back toward the middle."

His audience wasn't optimistic that the players' offer last week to take a 24-percent pay cut would lead to a settlement. So it took Commissioner Gary Bettman's rejection of it Tuesday in stride

The mood may vary from province to province — "People in B.C. aren't nervous about losing hockey long term, but I think it's on their minds in Alberta," Russell said - but he indicated the lack of hysteria appears to be nationwide.

hysteria appears to be nationwide. Still, locked-out players say they can get an earful when they're back home in Canada. And, Sharks forward Alyn McCauley said, it's not surprising, considering people grew up playing hockey and harbored dreams of stardom.

"Up here, a lot of people feel, 'If I just made that pass in peewee, I'd be in the NHL today," said McCauley, who has spent the past few months at his Gananoque, Ontario, home. "There is that mental-ity that they could be out there doing the same thing we do

Russell has his theories why Canadians are handling this lockout better than the one in 1994. The Red Sox's run to the World Series captivated the country's sports fans through October. In November, Toronto and Vancouver played for the Canadian Football League title, keeping interest alive in two of the nation's three

People are also savvy enough to know the economic circum-stances of the lockout," Russell said. "People realize it's a tough nut to crack."

Soon enough, the big picture comes into focus: Canadians are surviving the lockout because there's still plenty of hockey north of the 49th Parallel. The game hasn't vanished — just the 30 fran-chises with the priciest tickets. 'We've got our own hockey to

play," said Palmer, who skates in a men's league that got a good laugh one night this fall when Sharks defenseman Scott Hannan, looking to stay active, showed up to play.

"And." he added. "we've got

Palmer is at a Vancouver Gi-

ants game. Like many fans, he has turned his attention to the major iunior hockey leagues whose 56 teams from coast-to-coast are the NHL's primary feeder system. Western

Competing in the Wes Hockey League, the Giants' son-ticket base grew from 2,600 to 4.500 this season. The team has been averaging crowds of 7,473 about a 68 percent increase over last season. And the electric billboard outside the Pacific Coliseum, home of the NHL's Canucks until 1995, drives home the contrast between the two teams: Game on, guaranteed

Miller fourth in World Cup super-G

VAL GARDENA, Italy - Bode Miller finished

fourth in a World Cup super giant slalom Friday in which Michael Walchhofer led a 1-2-3 Austrian



Miller has won six of 11 races this season and holds a commanding lead in the overall standings Walchhofer captured a World

Cup super-G for the first time, covering the 1.5-mile course in 1 minute, 31.17 seconds Defending overall champion Hermann Maier was second, 0.12 seconds behind, and Benjamin Raich finished third, 0.47 seconds back, Miller was 0.86 seconds off Walchhofer's pace. This was the first speed event this season in which

Maier has finished ahead of Miller, shaving 30 points off the American's overall lead. Miller leads Maier 780-419. Two-time defending champion Antoine Deneriaz of France finished 15th.

Walchhofer was second in the downhill on this course in each of the past three seasons. This was the third World Cup victory of his career following a combined in Kitzbuehel during the 2002-03 season and a downhill in Lake Louise, Alberta

Monty rules himself out for Euro captaincy

LONDON - Colin Montgomerie is no longer interested in becoming Europe's Ryder Cup captain.



Bode Miller. has won six of 11 races and leads the overall World Cup standings by 361 points.

Montgomerie, who made the winning putt in Europe's victory over the United States in September at Oakland Hills, said Friday he's withdrawing as a candidate to captain the team in 2006 at the K Club in Ireland The 41-year-old Scot said he's been told by "every-

" that he should keep playing.

"After hearing it I possibly have to agree," he said. "I think I can play in Ireland and possibly the next couple.

Germany's Bernhard Langer captained the team which beat the Americans by a record margin of 181/2-91/2. Montgomerie, who has a Ryder Cup record of 19-8-5, backs Langer to continue as captain.

Bryant, Lakers humble Kings at Arco Arena

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Kobe Bryant discussed it with assistant coach Frank Hamblen in the closing minutes. Not even the two longest-tenured people on the Lakers' bench could remember ever beating the Sacramento Kings with such force and flair.

Bryant had 31 points and 12 as sists, Lamar Odom scored 22 points and Los Angeles added more fuel to its biggest rivalry by handing Sacramento its worst home loss in nearly seven years, 115-99 on Thursday night.

Brian Cook hit four of the Lakers' 12 three-pointers in a building where Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal enjoyed some of their greatest playoff triumphs during With Shaq the last six seasons. gone to Miami, the Lakers still handed Sacramento its worst loss at Arco Arena since a 116-95 defeat to San Antonio on March 2.

The Lakers ran away in the second half, outscoring Sacramento 37-22 in the third quarter with 16 points from Bryant. They kept up their up-tempo assault until the final minutes, when Kings coach Rick Adelman furiously nulled his starters with nearly 5 minutes

"We really just jumped on them," Bryant said. "It's big. We have yet to beat such a top opponent like Sacramento. We've been in position to win these types of ballgames, and we just haven't closed them out. This is a good sten for us.

Chris Webber and Bobby Jackson scored 20 points apiece for the Kings, whose starters left the game in embarrassed indignation. It was just Sacramento's third loss in 17 games — but few defeats in recent years have stung more.

"We weren't doing anything that was going to get us into the game," Adelman said. "They're a team that gives us problems because of matchups, but they're not that good. This was hopefully a wakeup call, because they handled us.

fensive tenacity and offensive patience were exposed in just its second home loss of the season.

Brad Miller scored only six noints in 38 minutes and Peia Stojakovic was ineffective despite getting 16 points.

"It was a great team win, proba-bly a milestone for us," Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "Now we've got something we talk about - winning on the road and we have something to look

From the cultural poles of California. Los Angeles and Sacramento battled atop the Pacific Division standings for the better part of a decade, trading verbal jabs and actual punches along with baskets in countless memorable games and playoff series.

But after the Lakers were rebuilt in the offseason to defuse the growing feud between Shaq and Kobe, Webber pronounced one of the NBA's better rivalries dead — even though Vlade Divac. perhaps the most beloved player in Sacramento's renaissance, defected back to Los Angeles for a \$4.9 million contract Webber's prediction seems a

bit premature. Sacramento pulled out an entertaining 109-106 victory at Staples Center last month — and in the rematch, the Lakers handed the Kings their most humbling home defeat during Adelman's seven seasons.

Bryant was greeted with his usual showers of boos, and the Kings went after him with double-teams. He still showed brilliance: a two-handed reverse dunk, an awkward scoop shot being fouled and a four-point play in the third quarter, hitting a three-pointer while Doug Christie clipped his elbow.

The Lakers exploited the biggest flaws in the Kings' defense: poor rotation to open shooters and an utter inability to stop dribble penetration. Odom blew by Webber atop the key on several possessions, while Tierre Brown, Chucky Atkins and the rest of the Lakers' guards drove the lane almost at will. Brown scored 13 points in the fourth.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant left, goes in for a layup against Sacramento Kings' Doug Christie during the first quarter in Sacramento, Calif., on Thursday, Bryant had 31 points and 12 assists in the Lakers' 115-99 victory.

Pistons shut down James, Cavs

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. - Richard Hamilton scored 21 points and the Detroit Pistons held Cleveland to a six-point third quarter and almost held LeBron James scoreless in the second half in an 81-69 victory Thursday

It looked like it might not be James' night when he shot two airballs on one possession in the first guarter. He finished with 11 points on 4-for-21 shooting, eight rebounds and seven assists

After making a fadeaway jumper over Ben Wallace at the end of the first half, James didn't score again until there was 2:12 left in



James scored a career-high 43 points the last time he faced the Pistons, a 92-76 victory on Nov. 28 in

Cleveland. Chauncey Billups scored 16, Rasheed Wallace had 13 and Ben

Wallace added 10 points and 15 rebounds for the Pistons. Cleveland's Drew Gooden

scored 18 points, Jeff McInnis had 14 and Zydrunas Ilgauskas finished with 12 after an eight-point first quarter.

The Central Division-leading Cavaliers are 9-1 at home, but

The Pistons erased a 10-point halftime deficit during the third quarter, with Lindsey Hunter's two free throws with 4:09 left giving them the lead for the first time since the opening minutes of the game.

Bulls 85. Bucks 77: At Chicago, Kirk Hinrich scored 28 points. and the Bulls won two in a row for the first time this season.

Eddy Curry added 18 points for the Bulls, who won for the fourth time in six games

Michael Redd had 22 points for Milwaukee, which lost its third straight game and 13th of 16 overall. The Bucks are 1-9 on the road

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Western Conference New Orleans .095 18 4 .818 14 8 .636 13 9 .591 10 11 .476 10 13 .435 Phoenix Sacramento 19 15 3 .864 7 .682 13 9 .591 11 10 .524 7 15 .318

Thursday's gar Detroit 81, Cleveland 69 Chicago 85, Milwaukee 77 Detroit 81, Cleveland 69 Chicago 85, Milwaukee 77 L.A. Lakers 115, Sacramento: Friday's games Toronto at Indiana New York at Philadelphia Utah at Boston

Saturday Denver at Orlando Houston at Charlotte Boston at Cleveland Portland at Detroit Indiana at Chicago Philadelphia at Milw miladelphia at Milv Atlanta at Dallar Golden iden State at San Antonio Golden State at San Altorno
Washington at Phoenix
Sunday's games
New Jersey at Toronto
Utah at New York
Orlando at Miami

New Orleans at Sacrame Memohis at L.A. Clippers Thursday

Pistons 81, Cavaliers 69 CLEVELAND - Gooden 9-14 0-0 18, Jam DETROIT — Prince 2-8 3-4 7, R.Wallace 6-10 0-1 13, B.Wallace 4-11 2-4 10, Billups 6-15 2-2 16, Hamilton 7-17 7-7 21, Dupree 0-0 0-0 0, McDyess 3-4 4-4 10, L.Hunter 1-6 2-2 4, Ham 0-0 0-0 0, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, Milicic 0-0 0-0 0. To-29-71 20-24 81.

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Cieveland 21, Detroit 17. A-22,076

Bulls 85, Bucks 77 MILWAUKEE - J. Smith 6-11 0-0 12, Mason 5-13 5-8 III, Galdruic 1,3 6-9 2, Redd 10-2 21, 3 III, Galdruic 1,3 6-9 2, Redd 10-2 21, 3 III, Galdruic 1,3 6-9 2, Redd 10-2 21, 3 III, Galdruic 1,3 6-9 2, Redd 10-2 21, 3 III, Galdruic 1,3 6-9 2, Redd 10-2 21, 3 III, 5 II, 5 III, 5 II, 5 III, 5 II, 5 III, 5 II, 5

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Three-Point Golls-Milwaukee 2-6 (Jame
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Lakers 115, Kings 99

NBA calendar

Jan. 5 – 10-day contracts may be signed. Jan. 10 – All player contracts guaranteed for rest of the season. Feb. 18-20 – All-Star weekend, Denver. Feb. 24 – Trading deadline, 3 p.m. EST. April 29 – Regular season ends. April 22 – Playoffs begin. June 7-10 – NBA predraft camp. Chicago. day 6 – 2 entiest possible NBA Finals start days 6 – 2 entiest possible NBA Finals start

ate. June 21 — Early entry draft withdrawal oline. **ne 23** — Latest possible NBA Finals end

. ne 28 — NRA Braft New York

Shaq, Yao lead early All-Star voting

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Shaquille O'Neal leads his new conference in early All-Star Game voting, while Yao Ming is No. 1 overall in the NBA.

O'Neal, traded from the Los Angeles Lakers to the Miami Heat in the offseason, tons the Eastern Conference with 854,930 votes as of Thursday. Yao, the center for the Western Conference's Houston Rockets, is the only player with more votes (881,223)

Fans can vote through Jan. 23, and All-Star starters will be announced Feb. 3. The game is Feb. 20 in Denver

Minnesota's Kevin Garnett, the reigning league MVP, is third overall, leading West forwards with 751,586 votes, followed by San Antonio's Tim Duncan with 570.090. Yao's

McGrady (680,373) is the top guard in the West, trailed by the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant



In the East Toronto's Vince Carter (619,959) and Orlando's Grant Hill (552,328) lead the forwards, while Cleveland's LeBron James (557,538) and Philadelphia's Allen Iverson (521,245) top the guards.

Snow sent away

from Cavaliers' bench

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. -Cleveland point guard Eric Snow was sent to the locker mom after getting in an argument on the bench with Cavaliers coach Paul Silas in the second quarter against Detroit on Thursday

Snow returned to the bench after halftime, but did not play in the second half.

Silas was upset with Snow because the Cavaliers turned the ball over on an eight-second viola-

"Nobody was open." Snow shouted back at Silas. Silas then took Snow out of the

game and after a heated conversation, he gestured to Snow to get off the bench. Snow walked off the court with teammate Scott liams and Robert Traylor.

"I am not going to discuss that," Silas said after the game. Snow also declined comment

The Cavaliers suspended forward Ira Newble last season for one game because of a profanity-laced argument with Silas.

Bucks put Strickland on injured list

MILWAUKEE - Milwaukee Bucks guard Erick Strickland will miss at least two weeks after ing placed on the injured list Thursday with a torn lateral meniscus in his right knee.

Strickland has appeared in 16 4-21 3-5 11, Ilgauskas 4-9 4-4 12, Newble 1-5 0-0 2, McInnis 5-13 2-2 14, Williams 1-2 0-0 2 games for the Bucks and is aver-0-0 2, McInnis 5-13 2-2 14, Williams 1-2 0-0 2 Varejao 2-3 2-4 6, Snow 0-0 0-0 0, Harris 0-4 2-2 2, Diop 1-2 0-0 2, Wagner 0-5 0-0 0. Totals 27-78 13-17 69. aging 4.3 points, two rebounds and 2.2 assists.

Pats' Vinatieri all but automatic

New England kicker has won two Super Bowls, made 21 straight field goal attempts

BY HOWARD ULMAN The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The only way to stop Adam Vinatieri from making field goals might be to keep him from kicking them.

And that approach doesn't work either because the New England Patriots score touchdowns instead.

The kicker whose field goals won two Super Bowls has failed just once in 29 attempts this season and that came from 47 yards. He hasn't tried one in the last two games, but the Patriots won both — 42-15 in Cleveland and 35-28 against Cincinnati.

"It's nice to be on the field as often as possible," Vinatieri said Thursday, "And if they're all extra points, I'm happy with that, as long as we're winning."

It's just not as exciting as when the cool Vinatieri lines up — in bright sun or snow-filled gloom, under a roof or a cloudless sky and drives field goals between the uprights in the biggest games.

"He's a guy that we count on for a lot of stuff no matter what the temperature is, what the field condition is," offensive tackle Matt Light said.

"It's ridiculous the stuff this guy kicks in and he's unfazed by

In the AFC divisional playoffs against the Oakland Raiders on Jan. 19, 2002, Vinatieri kicked a



New England Patriots' Adam Vinatieri, right, celebrates his game-winining field goal with teammates Ken Walter (13) and Christian Fauria
(88) in the final seconds of Super Bowl XXXVIII at Reliant Stadium in
Houston, on this Feb. 1, 2004. The Patriots beat the Panthers 32-29.
Vinatier also made the game-winning kick in Super Bowl XXXVIII

Super Bowl XXVIII

The Company of the C

45-yard field goal through falling flakes to force overtime and a 23-yarder to win 16-13. Two weeks later, in the Superdome in New Orleans, his 48-yarder on the last play gave the Patriots a 20-17 Super Bowl victory over the

In last season's playoffs, he went 5-for-5 in a 24-14 victory over Indianapolis, then broke a tie against Tennessee with 4:06

left with a 46-yarder that gave the Patriots a 17-14 win. In the Super Bowl, his 41-yard kick with 4 seconds left gave New England a 32-29 victory over Carolina.

"He's come up with some dandies," Light said. "It doesn't matter really where we are on the field. If they're sending him out there, I feel confident."

Now the nine-year veteran, whose kickoffs also have improved, feels much better physically after dealing with back problems last season when he went 25-for-34 and 7-for-10 in the post-season.

The difference "is night and day," he said. "The body feels great and I've been having a fairly decent year because of it."

How about fairly amazing? Vinatieri made his first seven field-goal attempts before missing on his second kick of the game on Oct. 19 in a 24-10 victory over Miami, where New England plays on Monday night.

Since then, he's made 21 straight—four short of the team record he set in 1996-97—although none have been game-winners because the Patriots (12-1) have been so dominant. He hasn't ried a field goal since he went 3-for-3 on a rainy Oct. 28 in a 24-3 win over Baltimore but he still leads the NFL in scoring.

"He has made some tough kicks," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "The Baltimore

game was a pretty tough kicking situation. We have seen him make them in the past."

He could start making them again Monday night if the offense stalls. One of them actually might win a game, a feat he's accomplished nine times the past three seasons. Four of them came in the

Patriots' six playoff games.
"The Dolphins play real good defense, so you never know," Vinatieri said. "You might be on the field kicking a lot of field goals. So you always have to be prepared. You never know when your time will be called."

Mike Vanderjagt of Indianapolis went 37-for-37 last season, the best single-season performance in NFL history. Olindo Mare, who will kick for Miami on Monday night, holds the league record of 39 total field goals in a season.

Vinatieri needs a big finish to challenge that.

"He's one of the best kickers in the league," Patriots tight end Christian Fauria said. "Our ideal is not to have him out there that much anyway. We like to score touchdaws."

But if the Patriots fall short, Vinatieri probably won't.

"The confidence level has been pretty good," he said. "Some years you get five or six game-winners and other times you go a whole year without maybe any. But we still have three games left and the postsea-son."

William & Mary quarterback Campbell wins Payton Award

The Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — William & Mary quarterback Lang Campbell won the Walter Payton Award on Thursday night as the top offensive player in Division I-AA.

Campbell received 40 first-place votes and 315 points from a panel of Division I-AA sports information directors and media.

Sam Houston State guarter-

back Dustin Long finished second with 17 first-place votes and 185 points. Appalachian State wide receiver DaVon Fowlkes finished third with eight first-place votes and 151 points.

Campbell, the Atlantic 10 offen-

sive player of the year, threw for 3,037 yards and 21 touchdowns, with just one interception, during the regular season. He also ran for 201 yards and seven touchdowns.

He led William & Mary to a

share of the Atlantic Mary to a share of the Atlantic 10 title with a 9-2 regular season record, but the Tribe lost to James Madison in the semifinals of the Division I-AA tournament.

James Madison plays Montana for the Division I-AA championship Friday in Chattanooga.

Meanwhile, Southern Illinois coach Jerry Kill won the Eddie Robinson Award as the I-AA coach of the year. In his fourth season, Kill led the Salukis to a



and a Gateway Conference championship, posting a perfect

7-0 league mark.

Cal Poly linebacker Jordan Beck won the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in I-AA. The 6-foot-2, 231-pound senior finished the season with 135 tackles, 18.5 tackles for loss, 5.5 sacks and six forced fumbles.

Former Nebraska coach Solich hired by Ohio University

ATHENS, Ohio — Former Nebraska coach Frank Solich was introduced as Ohio's new football coach Thursday, returning to the state where he grew up and promising to rebuild a program that has gone 11-35 over the past four seasons.

"It's great to be back in the game, and it's great to be back in the game at Ohio University," said Solich, who has been out of football since being fired at Nebraska a year ago after going 58-19 over six seasons.

Solich signed a multiyear deal with a base salary of \$240,000.

Solich had replaced Tom Osborne, who retired from Nebraska in 1997 after winning three national championships in four seasons.

Osborne, now a U.S. congress-



William & Mary quarterback Lang Campbell, who was recognized as the top offensive player in Division I-AA on Thursday night, threw for 3,037 yards and 21 touchdowns, with just one interception, during the regular season. He also ran for 201 yards and seven touchdowns.

man, was 49-2 in those final four seasons, leaving Solich with an almost impossible task of maintaining that success.

Solich, an assistant under Osborne from 1979-97, led the Cornhuskers to the national championship game in the 2002 Rose Bowl, where they lost 37-14 to Miami.

Nebraska was only 7-7 the next year, the school's first non-winning season since 1961. Solidwas dismissed the next season despite going 9-3. Assistant Bo Pelini then coached the Cornhuskers to a 17-3 win over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl.

Solich's name has been mentioned for openings at more well-known schools, but he cited the enthusiasm by university officials, his familiarity with Ohio and the success of the Mid-American Conference as reasons why he accepted the job.

"It's obvious to me ... that the MAC conference produces some great football teams and great football players," he said.

Solich takes over a program that went including 4-7 this year under coach Brian Knorr, who was fired Nov. 18. The Bobcats have had only two winning sea-

Mississippi State extends Croom's contract through '08

sons since 1982

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Sylvester Croom is under contract with Mississippi State through 2008.

Croom, the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history, agreed to a one-year extension, the school announced Wednesday.

Croom signed a four-year deal when he was hired last Decem-

The Bulldogs finished 3-8 this season, 2-6 in the SEC. An upset of then-nationally ranked Florida was the high point of Croom's first season.

A year ago, Croom inherited a

Mississippi State program in the midst of an NCAA investigation for recruiting violations between 1998 and 2002.

The NCAA placed the Bulldogs' program on probation for four years, stripped it of eight scholarships over two years and banned Mississippi State from this postseason.

Athletic director Larry Temple-

ton said that for every year the program is under sanctions, Croom will receive an extra year on top of the state-maximum four-year contract he signed 12 months ago.

That verbal agreement would

keep him under contract through the 2011 season.

No charges filed against Cal receiver David Gray

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Police Department decided to drop weapons charges against California receiver David Gray, who was arrested last week after a fight outside a nightclub.

"We're pleased that when the police looked further into the incident, they chose to discharge David's case," Golden Bears coach Jeff Tedford said Thursday. "From what we knew of the circumstances, that's the outcome we always had expected. Hopeful yo now, David and the team can put this umpleasant experience behind us."

On second thought ..

Giants mortgaged the future to get Manning while letting Steelers steal Roethlisberger

BY TOM CANAVAN

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Some eight months ago, the New York Giants were patting themselves on the back after engineering a draft-day trade to get Eli Manning.

No one seemed to care that the Giants had mortgaged the franchise in the deal with San Diego for the No. 1 overall pick.

"I think it's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get somebody you feel that strongly about," general manager Ernie Accorsi said after sending the rights to quarterback Philip Rivers (the fourth pick overall), a first-round pick next year and two other draft choices to the Chargers for the rights to Manning.

It was a deal everyone liked. New coach Tom Coughlin and the Giants supposedly got a great quarterback for the future. Manning also got his wish, which was not to play for the Chargers.

Chargers.

The other offshoot was that it left Ben Roeth-lisberger on the board and allowed the Pittsburgh Steelers to take him with the 11th

choice overall.
With the NFL regular season winding
down, the deal of the century isn't looking
very good, especially with Manning and the
Glants (5-8) preparing to meet Roethlisberger
and the Steelers (12-1) at Giants Stadium on
Saturday afternoon.

The Giants have lost six games in a row and seven of eight in seeing their once promising playoff hopes take a nosedive. They could be eliminated this weekend with a loss and victories by two of three teams (Minnesota, Carolina, St. Louis).

Manning, who replaced two-time MVP Kurt Warner at quarterback after the ninth game of the season, is winless in four starts. His last two starts have been pathetic. The brother of NFL co-MVP Peyton Manning of Indianapolis has hit 16 of 43 passes for 140 yards with two interceptions. He has led New York to one touchdown in 44 offensive series since becoming a starter.

The story is much more positive in Pittsburgh and San Diego. Roethlisberger has not lost a game since becoming the starter on Sept. 26 against Miami. Pittsburgh's current 11-game winning streak is one shy of a team record. A 13-1

streak is one shy of a team record. A 13-1 record would be the Steelers' best. It would also move Bill Cowher's team closer to a first-round playoff bye.

The Chargers (10-3) have been one of the NFL's biggest surprises.

With Manning not waiting in the wings, San Diego quarterback Drew Brees has responded with 23 touchdown passes and a 102.7 quarterback rating, which is second in the AFC behind Peyton Manning and just ahead of Roethlisberger's 97.6.

Roethlisberger, who many thought would be taken by the Giants on draft day, has had the benefit of playing for a team that has an outstanding offensive line, two strong running backs, three good receivers and one of the league's top-ranked defenses.

Manning has played behind a weak offensive line, with banged-up receivers, an undeurtilized weapon in tight end Jeremy Shockey and an overused halfback in This Barber. The combination helps explain his 33.8 quarterback rating, the lowest among passers with 100 attempts.

In 20/20 hindsight, it might be worth asking: Did the Giants make the wrong move eight months ago? Coughlin said his opinion of Manning has not changed one iota.

Roethlisberger gave a cryptic answer when asked if the draft order of quarterbacks might be different now.

"I don't know," said Roethlisberger, who is 164-for-248 for 2,084 yards and 14 touchdowns, with eight interceptions. "You'd have to ask Eli if he'd go to San Diego or not."

Manning is smart enough not to second-guess himself, or his family, which is headed by former New Orleans Saints quarterback Archie Manning. They advised him to spurn San Diego.

The younger Manning knows winning is what determines the value of a quarterback. Roethlisberger is doing that now, and Manning isn't.



New York Giants rookie quarterback Eli Manning is flattened during a loss to Philadelphia.

"You have to try to take care of yourself, and right now, I am just trying to get better and trying to improve this offense and make plays when they are there," Manning said. "That is my concern right now and that is what I am trying to deal with."

Manning's recent problems have been compounded playing against three of the league's top defenses, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore. Going against the Steelers will be the latest test in his professional education.

"I think Eli is going to be a very good quarterback in this league from what I see," Steelres coach Bill Cowher said. "I think that if you give the kid time and give him some experience, I don't think there's any question that he is going to have success in this league."

Redskins, 49ers are teams on the slide

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A few days ago, coach Dennis Erickson

honestly didn't know whether he would be on the San Francisco 49ers' sideline this weekend. Usually, he spends game days

only wishing he was someplace else.

It's hard to say how Erickson's

It's hard to say how Erickson's flirtation with Mississippi affected the 49ers in their preparations for Saturday's game against the Washington Redskins, but Erickson must have figured it couldn't make their 2-11 season much worse.

San Francisco's undermanned roster has been beset by injuries and infighting, and Erickson's interview with Ole Miss on Tuesday night was just the latest in a long list of distractions for players and coaches.

"I just felt that it (Mississippi) wasn't the right situation for me," Erickson said. "I feel like I want to finish this thing, if we have that opportunity. I would like to see what we decide we're going to do when it is all over with at the end of the season."

The 49ers need at least one victory in their final three games to avoid matching the worst record in franchise history. That might be difficult to get, even against the low-scoring Redskins (4-9), whose season has been nearly as disappointing.

There are plenty of similarities in the clubs' struggles this season: bad offenses, poor discipline, injuries and rosters somewhat ill-fitted to the coaching staffs' desires.

There's also one big difference: With owner Dan Snyder and coach Joe Gibbs in charge in Washington, at least the Redskins have the deep pockets and savvy leadership on the field to give their fans some hope — unless you believe Gibbs' own assessment of his first year back in

"I have no clue. I don't have an idea," Gibbs said when asked if he could restore the Redskins' glory days. "I'd like to do some-thing good for the franchise and help the franchise get back to winning football games, but there are no givens in this sport. I might go through a lot of dumps and a lot of adversity."

Further polishing his Lou Holtz impersonation, Gibbs also said of the woeful 49ers: "I watch them on film, and I think they are certainly a team that can easily, easily beat us."

It's safe to say Washington fans have more confidence in their leadership team than the West Coast faithful watching the Nin-ers' steady decline under the stewardship of owner John York, who now seems to be searching for a cost-effective way to make Erickson into the fall guy for the underachieving team.

Carolina looks to turn tide vs. Atlanta

BY CHARLES ODUM

ATLANTA — For a team still below 500 this season and woefully below 500 in its series with division rival Atlanta, the Carolina
Panthers bring substantial momentum and confidence to the
Georgia Dome for Saturday
might's game.

The Falcons have won 11 of the last 13 games in the series and hold an overall 13-6 lead in the series, including a 27-10 victory in Charlotte on Oct. 3. The Falcons are looking for their fifth sweep in seven years.

"Every team has somebody that they struggle with," Carolina defensive coordinator Mike Trgovac said. "Until we put this Atlanta thing to rest, everyone is going to talk about that to us." The Panthers are painfully

aware they have only one victory in nine visits to Atlanta, but they are bolstered by a five-game winning streak. At 6-7, they are back in the NFC wild-card race. Carolina coach John Fox found

one way to put a positive spin on

the team's poor history at the Georgia Dome.

"I know we're undefeated there on Saturday night," Fox said. The Falcons (10-3) clinched the NFC South title with last week's 35-10 victory over Oakland, but coach Jim Mora refused to concede Craolina has more at stake.

"No, heck no, we've got a ton riding on this game," Mora said. "They're trying to get in the playoffs. We're trying to get a first-round bye. We're both fighting and kicking and scratching. This game is very important both teams, and we both realize

"If you said that both teams were 3-10, it would still be a base the out there. It's two teams that I think really enjoy playing against each other. There's a little something to it, and it's a national TV game. Night games are always a little bit different."

The Falcons will look different on offense. They will be without starting fullback Justin Griffith the rest of the season and without backup tailback T.J. Duckett for at least one week. Duckett had arthroscopic knee surgery Tuesday after scoring a team-record four TDs against Oakland. Griffith broke an ankle in the game.

The Falcons signed veteran Fred McCrary as the backup to new starting fullback Stanley Pritchett, who already had one start in a fill-in role this year. Rookie tailback Jason White was promoted from the practice squad to play behind starter War-

With all the focus on the Falcons' running backs this week, it has not escaped Carolina's attention that quarterback Michael Vick is Atlanta's leading rusher.

"Their running game, even though they're going to miss one big part of it, they still have two major parts of it who can get it done," Carolina defensive tackle Brentson Buckner said "It's a three-headed monster they have. Even though Duckett plays a big part of what they like to do and they'll miss him, you can't take nothing away from Dunn. Even though he's small in stature, he

can still pound it up in there and he's got the speed to take it the dis-

Vick has 821 yards rushing. Dunn has 788 and seven touchdowns. Carolina defensive end Mike

Rucker said momentum generated by the Panthers' winning streak will overshadow the lack of success against the Falcons. "Different times, different

"Different times, different teams, different situations," Rucker said. "This is a unique situation where we're going and the way they are. It's going to be a great challenge. ... They're a good football team and we're going down there with some confidence."

While Vick gives Atlanta a quarterback with unusual skills, Mora says he worries about Carolina's 6-foot-6, 283-pound defensive end Julius Peppers lining up at wide

"He's so unique because he's so tall and so strong and so athletic," Mora said. "I'm just hoping they don't put him out there. But if they do, we've got a plan and we try to get a bigger guy out there who's athletic."



New York Jets running back Curtis Martin (28) ranks second in the AFC in rushing with 1,377 yards. He has also scored 12 touchdowns.

Jets tagged with label of bullying weaklings

By DAVE GOLDBERG The Associated Press

If the New York Jets were in the NFC, they probably would have clinched a playoff berth

Instead, they still have a fight on their hands as they host Seattle, which has won two fewer games, but leads the NFC West.

As befitting the difference between the conferences, the Jets are favored by six points even though Chad Pennington is playing with an injured throwing shoulder. It showed last week in Pittsburgh, where he threw three interceptions in what might have been his worst game since he became a starter

The Jets are 9-4 and lead the wild-card chase in the AFC. But they've lost to the best teams they've played: New England, Bal-timore and Pittsburgh, as well as to streaking Ruffalo

"Against good teams we don't do anything," running back LaM-ont Jordan said. "People around here might not like me saving that, but that's just the truth Against good teams, against winning teams, against good defenses we haven't done a thing." Is Seattle good?

Its defense is certainly spotty. although Michael Boulware intercented a pass in the end zone to help seal a 27-23 win in Minnesota last week. The Seahawks got lucky on that one - the pass was thrown by wide receiver Randy Moss. not guarterback Daunte Culpepper.

They could get lucky again. Giants Stadium is usually windy this time of year, which could accentuate Pennington's shoulder problems

On conference difference ...

JETS. 24-20.

Baltimore (plus 8) at Indianapolis: Tony Dungy wants Peyton Manning to get the TD pass record out of the way so the Colts can concentrate on the playoffs. Not that easy against the Ravens. COLTS, 27-23.

Carolina (plus 31/2) at Atlanta (Saturday): The Panthers, have won five straight to put themselves in position for an NFC wild-card spot. They are 1-8 at the Georgia Dome, but streaks end. ... PANTHERS, 20-19.

New England (minus 91/2) at



Miami (Monday): Only two of the Dolphins' 11 losses are by more than 10 points, one of them by 14 in Foxboro Make it three PA. TRIOTS, 20-7.

Minnesota (minus 3) at Detroit: The only thing predictable about the Vikings is that they lose late

in the season. ... LIONS, 22-20.

Jacksonville (plus 3½) at Green Bay: "We should feel good about this win, but we're not good enough to feel that good." Brett Favre said after the Packers edged Detroit last week. They're good enough for Jacksonville,

though. ... PACKERS, 16-14. Pittsburgh (minus 10) at New York Giants (Saturday): The fans are all over the Giants for trading draft picks for Eli when Ben was

available. ... STEELERS, 27-2. Dallas (plus 12½) at Philadel Eagles phia: The Eagles clinch home-field advantage in the NFC

playoffs. ... EAGLES, 33-17. San Diego (minus 10) at Cleveland: The streak goes on.

CHARGERS, 31-10. Buffalo (minus 11/2) at Cincin-

nati: Jon Kitna is a more than canable stand-in for Carson Palmer. But the Bills are hot and can run BILLS, 31-23. St. Louis (minus 3) at Arizona:

Chris Chandler won't throw six interceptions, but ... CARDINALS,

Washington (minus 4) at San Francisco: The Redskins aren't the Cardinals. ... REDSKINS, 20.3

Denver (plus 1) at Kansas City: With the Chiefs' offense, one Jake Plummer mistake could kill Denver's playoff hopes. He'll make at least two. ... CHIEFS, 27-24.

New Orleans (plus 71/2) at Tampa Bay: Both teams should be out of the playoffs. But only the loser is. ... BUCS, 28-23.

Houston (plus 1) at Chicago:

The AFC factor again. ... TEX-ANS, 18-15. Tennessee (plus 2½) at Oak-land: Billy Volek isn't bad. ...

RAIDERS, 31-30. Last week: 5-11 (spread), 12-4

(straight up). Season: 97-107-4 (spread), 137-71 (straight up).

E. Smith wants to keep running

Cardinals RB has 'no problem playing next year'

TEMPE, Ariz. - Fifteen sea sons may not be not enough for Emmitt Smith

NFL briefs.

The NFL's most prolific ball carrier sounds as if he would like to come back for a 16th, either with the Arizona Cardi-

nals or another team.

"I don't have no problem playing next year," he said after Thursday's practice.

Smith stopped just short of say-ing he will definitely come back. "I'm not totally happy with the I way I performed in terms of the success of the team and all," he said "But I wanted to make a contribution, and I feel like I have made a contribution, and I think I've got a lot in me to make more contributions to this team or wherever it may be if I choose to con-

The 35-year-old running back has rushed for 732 yards on 202 carries, an average of 3.6 yards per carry, and has nine touch downs. A sore big left toe kept him out of one game, and his carries have dwindled in the three others because Arizona fell behind early during a four-game losing streak.

He needs almost 100 yards in

each of the next three games to reach 1,000

Coach Dennis Green, who has said he thought this was Smith's final season, wanted nothing to do with the subject of the running back's future on Thursday

"You know what? I haven't thought about anything except the Rams right now," said Green, whose 4-9 team plays St. Louis on Sunday. "We've got three games to go, and I'm focused on the first game Smith, the NFL's career rushing

leader with 18,150 yards, is in the

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, fol-owed by team's prognosis. Billis OL Mike Williams (knee) probable. Broncos: DL Luther Elliss (hernlated lisc) out for season.

last year of a two-year, \$7.5 million contract he signed with the Cardinals after leaving Dallas. Iniuries shortened his 2003 season. then the Cardinals hired Green who installed Smith as the starter

"I've enjoyed my stay here with Dennis," Smith said. "He's given me an opportunity to get back on the football field and showcase my talent, whereas earlier this year there was a chance I was going to be a backup. He saw fit to give me a chance to come out here and do my job again and be the No. 1 guy. an't be anything but grateful and thankful for a man to give me the opportunity to do that.

Steelers WR Burress out: **RB Staley doubtful** PITTSBURGH - Pittsburgh

Steelers wide receiver Plaxico Burress will sit out Saturday's game against the New York Giants, missing his fourth consecutive game because of a sore ham-Burress, Pittsburgh's most reli-

able downfield receiver, ran patterns in practice this week and was optimistic about playing. But he was downgraded from questionable to out Thursday after talking with trainer John Norwig.

"It's just a couple of things," Burress said. "When I'm running full speed and make a little move, I still feel it a little bit. So he said to me it would probably be best for me to sit out the game.

Burress thinks missing one more game should allow him to play Dec. 26 against the Ravens. The Steelers (12-1), trying for a

club-record 12th consecutive victo ry, also might be without running

back Duce Staley (hamstring), who missed practice Wednesday and Thursday. He's listed as doubtful, meaning there is only a 25-percent chance he will play.

Kansas City RB Johnson finally getting first start

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - It's been a long and often painful trek for Larry Johnson, Kansas City's controversial second-year running back.

But here he is, ready to make his first NFL start Sunday against the Denver Broncos. It's a promotion no one can say he hasn't

Coming off the bench the past two games. Johnson had two 100-yard rushing outings. His touchdowns runs of 46 and 41 vards against Tennessee on Monday night marked the first time in Chiefs history a back scored on two runs of 40 yards or more in one game.

'I don't think starting has really hit me yet until I actually get there and be the first one out there," Johnson said Thursday.

Johnson's run-ins with coach Dick Vermeil are well known. Earlier this year Vermeil said it was time for Johnson to "take the diapers off," then later apologized. Another time Johnson lashed out at Vermeil, saying the coach didn't

even want to draft him. It was probably true - Vermeil had said he wanted to go for de-

fensive help. But now most of the problems

seem to be in the past. He's got a smile on his face. He's getting the repetitions in

practice and he's working hard," Vermeil said Thursday. "He's having fun. He feels good about himself. It's a great mood swing. It was going to happen sooner or later. He had to struggle going through the process and now maybe it's worthwhile."

Dallas QB Henson relegated to No. 3

BY JAIME ARON The Associated Press

IRVING Teyas - Drew Henson lasted just two quarters as the starting quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys. Three weeks later, he's not even their top backup.

Henson was dropped to No. 3 this week, with Tony Romo moving up to No. 2. Romo has been with the team since the start of last season without taking a snap in a regular-season game.

Romo revealed the change Wednesday, soon after Parcells said he hadn't set the depth chart. During his daily news conference Thursday, Parcells insisted the new order was no big deal, saying he likes to flin-flon them every so often "to make sure they are staying in tune with what we're doing and preparing for the game like

they're going to play in it."

Although Parcells said he wouldn't make too much out of" this, he knows there are no minor issues when it comes to Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks.

Cowboys fans are always look

tradition of Don Meredith, Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman, Henson is supposed to be next in line and he seemed to be coming along well. He spent the first five games as the third-stringer, the next five games as the backup. then started the 11th game, albeit mainly because Vinny Testaver-

Parcells benched Henson at halftime of a tie game and went back to Testaverde. Henson remained the backup the past two games, but didn't throw a pass.

de was injured.

Now he's back where he began the season — and this time there are just three games left, which is why Parcells also is talking about sending him to NFL Europe for some game experience.

"It's not demotions or psychological warfare," Parcells said. 'It really isn't."

Henson said he was disappointed to be "farther from being on the field," yet he remains hopeful he can get some snaps this season. Regardless, he considers his rookie vear a good first step in his return to football after playing pro baseball the past three years 'I know I've gotten better since

the season started. I can feel that," he said. "As long as I'm making progress in my own mind, I take everything else for what it's worth and try not to read too much into it

Before lifting the hopes of Cowboys fans, Henson was supposed to be the next great star for the New York Yankees. He endured his share of disappointments along the way to realizing it wasn't going to happen. Parcells is counting on that experience to help him deal with this - that is, if there's anything to be disappointed about.

Parcells said Romo hasn't necessarily passed Henson in the team's big-picture plans, he just wants to take a longer look at Romo, who made the team last vear as an undrafted rookie from Division I-AA Eastern Illinois.

The move gives Romo more work with the first-team offense during practices, in addition to being one injury away from playing in a game.

Beltre, Mariners reach 5-year, \$64M deal

The Associated Pre

NEW YORK - Prized free agent Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal Thursday, The Associated Press learned

Beltre's contract is subject to him passing a physical, a person close to the third baseman said, speaking on condition of anonymi

The deal could be announced as early as Friday. Seattle did not comment on



the agreement. A day earlier, the Mariners added another slugger by finalizing a \$50 mil-

lion four-year contract with free-agent first baseman Richie

Seattle finished a distant last in the AL West, going 63-99 for their worst record since 1983. The Mariners were last in the league with only 136 homers and 698 runs.

Beltre, 25, led the majors with 48 home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers. He hit .334 with 121 RBIs, and finished second behind Barry Bonds in the NL MVP vot-

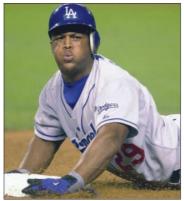
Beltre also improved on defense last season, committing only 10 errors.

The Dodgers wanted to keen Beltre and offered him salary arbitration. But Los Angeles recently gave itself some protection, signing free-agent Jeff Kent and saying that he could play third base, along with his usual spot at second

"We're disappointed. It hurts," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said. "Obviously, we would have loved to have him back.

"I think all of us knew this certainly was a possibility. We feel like we stepped up and made a very competitive offer, actually tried to make it a compelling one by offering a sixth guaranteed year. Unfortunately for us, Adrian decided to go elsewhere.

Beltre made \$5 million last sea-



Adrian Beltre and the Seattle Mariners reportedly agreed to a \$64 million, five-year deal on Thursday, Beltre must pass a physical first.

son, and figured to cash in after a career year in which he led the Dodgers to the NL West division title and their first postseason spot since 1988.

DePodesta said the Dodgers' six-year offer to Beltre and agent Scott Boras included an option for a seventh season

When asked if the Dodgers were given a final say in the matter, DePodesta said: "Not in so many words. They didn't come back and say if you can do this, he's coming back."

"Scott did have a sense of urgency, we did try to step up to that. That really wasn't the forum. But then again. I'm not blaming Scott for that, either, Everything he did in this process was above board. There's no villain here," he said. "At the end of the day, Seattle stepped up and made a great offer. We had multiple meetings, face-to-face meetings.

Beltre became a free agent after the season, filing on the same day he had arthroscopic surgery to remove two large bone spurs from his left ankle.

Beltre made his major league debut in 1998 at 19. He had nosted career highs of 23 home runs 85 RBIs and a .290 batting average before breaking loose this sea-

Ace Hudson traded to Braves

OAKLAND Calif - Tim Hudson was traded from the Oakland Athletics to Atlanta, a blockbuster deal Thursday that further bolstered the Braves' revamped rota-

Los Angeles, Boston and the

to be pursuing Hudson, but the Braves swooped in and got the Oakland ace for outfielder Charles Thomas and pitchers Juan Cruz and Dan Mever.

With the A's facing yet another payroll crunch, general manager Billy Beane finally broke up his "Big Three" starting pitchers of Hudson, Mark Mulder and Barry

It was Atlanta's second big trade in a week. Last Saturday, the Braves acquired All-Star closer Dan Kolb from Milwaukee - a move that allowed them to move John Smoltz back into the rota-

Moments after the trade was an nounced, the Braves unveiled another deal - they sent outfielder Eli Marrero and cash to Kansas City for pitcher Jorge Vasquez. The Georgia-born Hudson joins

a team that has won 13 straight division titles. The 29-year-old righty posted 81 wins from 2000-04, tied for the most in the AL over that span. He is 92-39 with a 3 30 ERA lifetime

Hudson was 12-6 with a 3.53 ERA in 27 starts this season. He made the All-Star team for the second time, but did not pitch because of a strained left side that put him on the disabled list for a

Vasquez, 26, also made his major league debut last season, pitching in two games for Kansas City. He spent most of the year at Triple-A Wichita, going 4-5 with a 4.68 ERA and 18 saves.

Morales officially an Angel

ANAHEIM, Calif. - Highly touted Cuban prospect Kendry Morales is officially a member of the Anaheim Angels. The Angels announced two

weeks ago they had agreed to terms of a six-year contract with Morales, conditional upon the 21-year-old switch hitter receiving clearance from the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

That came Thursday, when Mo-

OFAC, clearing him to work in the United States. He defected from Cuba in June, and now lives in the Dominican Republic

The Angels added Morales to their 40-man roster and designated right-hander Bobby Jenks for assignment. Jenks, the Angels fifth-round pick in 2000, only made three appearances for Triple-A Salt Lake last year before being shut down in June with elbow problems.

Morales plays first base, third base and the outfield. He was the first baseman and cleanup hitter for Cuba at the 2003 World Cup in Havana, and his grand slam helped the Cubans beat Taiwan 6-3 in the finals

The Angels were able to sign Morales because a Cuban player who acquires residency in a third country is eligible for free agent

Santiago headed to Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH - Benito Santiago was traded Thursday by the Kansas City Royals to the Pittsburgh Pirates, who have sought a veteran catcher since dealing Jason Kendall to Oakland last

The Royals get right-handed prospect Leo Nunez for Santiago. but also must pay about \$1 million of Santiago's \$2.15 million salary in the second season of his two-year contract.

The deal with Pittsburgh was first discussed during last weekend's winter meetings in Anaheim, Calif., but wasn't completed until Santiago took a physical in Pittsburgh this week.

Santiago, a five-time All-Star and three-time Gold Glove winner, hit .274 with six homers and 23 RBIs in 49 games in 2004, but didn't play after fracturing his left hand June 18 against Philadel-

The right-handed hitting Santiago is seventh in major league history with 1,911 games caught and pass Al Lopez and Jim Sundberg if he catches at least 18 more

Martinez: 'I'm way over Schilling as a pitcher' ship in 86 years.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Pedro Martinez says he told Red Sox management he didn't want to be in the shadow of fellow ace Curt Schilling. He also hopes his new team, the New York Mets, will sign his former Boston battery-mate, Jason Varitek.

In an interview with the Boston Herald, Martinez criticized the negotiating tactics of Red Sox officials, saying he repeatedly got mixed signals from team president Larry Lucchino, owner John Henry and General Manager Theo Epstein, whom he called "arrogant.

Martinez signed a four-year, \$53 million contract with the Mets this week. He said he left the Red Sox after seven years partly because he didn't want to be second in the starting rotation behind Schilling, who was acquired last offseason and helped lead the team to its first World Series champion-



"I told [Henry], 'You want to sign me, get it done. Please force

them to get it done. I'm willing to stay here. Negotiate with them. I just don't want to be under Schilling,' "Martinez said.

Martinez

He also said he deserved a better deal

than Schilling.
"Schilling is 38, I'm only 33," he said. "The fact that I had an off-year doesn't mean that I can be below Schilling. Still, with an off-year, I'm way over Schilling as a pitcher and I've pitched pretty much like Schilling the last few years, if you're going to talk about durability."

Red Sox officials did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Asked what other free agents he thought Boston would sign, Martinez said "they'll be stupid not to do Varitek. Varitek is the next one gone. Theo's going to have the biggest problem with him

Epstein has said signing Varitek is one of his offseason priorities. The catcher is re-portedly seeking a five-year contract worth more than \$50 million, with a

"I hope he is gone," Martinez said of Varitek. "I hope 'Tek is on my team."

Asked whether that meant he wanted to get rid of current Mets catcher Mike Piazza, Martinez said, "I do want Piazza, too. Piazza is a good hitter. We can move him to first or somewhere. ... I want 'Tek. 'Tek is a good player, a good catcher.

He also said Epstein and Lucchino "weren't getting along in negotiations. Lucchino would say one thing and Theo would show up with another."

He said Epstein treated his agent, Fernando Cuza, poorly during negotiations.

"Theo got really arrogant on Fernando and I didn't appreciate it." Martinez said. "Theo believed that he had me and wasn't the nicest man communicating with Fernando.

He said Red Sox manager Terry Francona played little role in managing the team. taking his cues from the team's front of-

"Francona is subject to what they de-cide." Martinez said. "Francona had no say, like he didn't have any say in managing the team. He was manipulated from up-

Asked for evidence to back that assertion, he said, "I was in the clubhouse, that's how I know.

Temple coach Chaney has staying power

Facing 1,000th game, he's still a fiery presence

BY DAN GELSTON The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA Chaney barely had time to savor one of his earliest games back in 1972 when an indignant fan abruptly remarked he wasn't too happy to have the rookie coach

"I told him, 'Well, I'm going to be here for a long time so you better get used to me." Chaney recalled with a laugh.

Sure enough, Chaney is still raising hell on the sidelines 32 years after his college coaching debut with Division II Cheyney State in suburban Philadelphia. Chaney eventually moved on to Temple, but not much else has changed for the Hall of Famer.

From threatening opposing coaches to giving a ref an earful in his loud, booming voice, to reaching out to another underprivileged kid, Chaney has re-mained steady as ever through 999 games.

Chaney still seems restless and cranky, and his nattily attire is usually in shambles after a game.



After 999 games, Temple coach John Chaney has lost none of his competitive fire. Above, he shares some with point guard Mardy Collins.

Chaney approaches his 1,000th career game, he knows his time on Temple sideline is nearing an end. But don't go planning that retirement party just

"I would like to stay as long as I can, as long as my health is good and as long as the kids keep listen-ing to me," said Chaney, who turns 73 in January.

When Chaney (711-288) coach-

Monday, he will become the 19th Division I coach to reach 1,000 games and the fifth active one, joining Lou Henson, Bob Knight, Eddie Sutton, Lute Olson and Mike Krzyzewski.

es Temple against Princeton on

"I think it's a number that's really kind of inconceivable to me. said Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli, who is in his 10th sea-"Like a lot of things about

John Chaney, it's hard to put your hands around?

Chaney, whose deep, dark eyes seem fitting for a school whose mascot is an owl, was amazed he's lasted so long.

"I've never given it any thought," Chaney said. "It surprised me when they told me I accomplished 700 wins.

Chaney said that, although the games tend to run together, it's the people, the experiences and

the stories that stand out. "I can't remember all of their names, but sooner or later it comes back to me," he said.

Soon, Chaney is off on another story, this one about cooking eggs for his players at Cheyney State because a flu epidemic had them quarantined. When Chaney tells how the eggs turned a Dr. Suess-like green, he bursts into a fit of uncontrollable cackling.

Chaney dabbled as play-er-coach toward the end of his career in the Eastern Basketball League, then started full time at Philadelphia's Sayre Junior High (1963-66) and Simon Gratz High

When Cheyney State came call-

ing in 1972, Chaney was torn. Chaney, though, was convinced he could affect more lives on the college level. Chaney had more concerns when he considered the Temple vacancy in 1982.

"I was very apprehensive," he said. "I was happy with where I

cess comes when you're very happy with what you do."

Chaney had little to worry about after 10 season at Cheyney. He was 225-59 and won the NCAA Division II title in 1978

with the Wolves. Chaney has experienced so much success that he has quite a

list of prolific games to choose from for his most memorable. His first game was a 68-58 loss to East Stroudsburg. His first victory came in the next game, on Dec. 5, 1972, an 82-67 defeat of

Monmouth. Chanev's favorite was Chevney's 47-40 victory over Wisconsin-Green Bay in the 1978 Division II title game.

"Without question the national championship game at Cheyney in '78 stands out the most." he said. "And my first time here getting into the NCAAs stands out. How exciting it was for all the stu-

After a losing record his first season at Temple, Chaney took the Owls to the NCAA tournament 17 times in 18 years. Before his arrival, the Owls had never played in consecutive tourna-

Chaney has led the Owls 21 straight postseason appearances, including five appearances in the NCAA tournament regional finals (1988 1991 1993 1999 and 2001) Still, a Final Four berth re-

mains the one void in his career.



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SPORTS



Jets, Seahawks in need of win for shot at playoffs, Page 37

Big pitch for Big Unit

Yankees' deal would also involve Vazquez, Dodgers' Green

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After so many missed tries, the New York Yankees might really have a trade for Randy Johnson.

The Arizona ace was on the verge of joining the Yankees in a three-team megadeal that also includes Shawn Green and Javier Vazquez, sources told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

Green would go from Los Angeles to Arizona, and Vazquez would move from the Yankees to the Dodgers in the trade that would put Johnson in Yankee pinstripes.

"It is going to happen," a source familiar with the negotiations said on the condition of anonymity. Another team source said the principals were in place for the trade to be completed.

There was no confirmation from any of the teams that a deal was finalized. And one source said it still could fall apart because so many players and clubs were involved.

Another element that could get in the way: With the Dodgers losing free agent Adrian Beltre to Seattle, they may not be so eager to trade away a power hitter.

Newsday and Fox Sports, which first reported the deal on their Web sites, said the other players were Dodgers pitchers Brad Penny and Yhency Brazoban, and Yankees top prospects Eric Duncan and Dioner Navarro.

"We're still in conversations with a lot of different clubs about a lot of different possibilities," Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta said earlier in the day. "We have talked about some three-way deals and some four-way deals. I don't know if it's going to happen or not."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner has long coveted Johnson, still one of baseball's most dominating pitchers at 41. New York was not able to pry the Big Unit from the Diamondbacks last summer and called off trade talks with them two weeks ago, saying the price was too high.

But the Yankees and Arizona reopened discussions this week for the five-time Cy Young winner. Johnson has a no-trade clause, but had said he would accept a deal to the Yankees. New York already has added free agent Carl Pavano to its rotation this offseason, aiming to improve a team that blew a 3-0 lead against Boston in the AL championship series. The Yankees also have reached a deal with Jaret Wright, while the Red Sox have signed David Wells but lost

free agent Pedro Martinez.

Green also has a no-trade clause. The outfielder would go with Penny and Brazoban to Arizona while Navarro, a catcher, and Duncan, a third baseman, would go to the Dodgers.

Johnson had his best years with the Diamondbacks, winning the NL Cy Young Award his first four seasons with them. When Curt Schilling was traded to Arizona from Philadelphia, he and Johnson formed perhaps the most imposing righty-lefty combination the game has known.

Schilling and Johnson were co-MVPs of the 2001 World Series, when Arizona beat the Yankees in seven thrilling games.

kees in seven thrilling games.
Johnson underwent knee surgery during the 2003 season, but came back for what might have been his best year with the Di-

The moves

■ Dodgers send outfielder Shawn Green, pitchers Brad Penny and Yhency Brazoban to Arizona Diamondbacks:

■ Arizona would trade pitcher Randy Johnson to New York Yankees:

■ New York Yankees would give pitcher Javier Vazquez, third baseman Eric Duncan, and catcher Dioner Navarro to L.A. Dodgers.

amondbacks in 2004

On a team that lost 111 games, Johnson was second in the majors with a 2.60 ERA. He led the majors in strikeouts (290) for the ninth time and sixth time in the last seven years.

Johnson was 16-14, but 13-2 when the anemic Arizona offense scored more than two runs for him. Along the way, he pitched a perfect game against Atlanta.

Vazquez, 28, was 14-10 with a 4.91 ERA in his first season with the Yankees, and was picked for the American League All-Star team. He was 1-0 with a 9.53 ERA

in three games in the postseason, and the Yankees always put a premium on October performances.

Green, 31, has a .282 career average, but dipped to .266 last season with 28 home and 86 RBIs.

Penny, 26, was traded from Florida to the Dodgers last July 30, but saw limited action for Los Angeles because of a problem in his right arm. He was 9-10 with a 3.15 ERA for both

Brazoban, 24, made his major league debut this season with Dodgers, going 6-2 with a 2.48 ERA.

Navarro also made his big league debut this year. He was considered, along with Duncan, among the top prospects in the Yankees' sys-

Associated Press sports writers Bob Baum in Phoenix, Josh Dubow in San Francisco and John Nadel in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Bryant, Lakers hand Kings worst home loss in nearly seven years



Temple's Chaney not slowing down as he nears 1,000th Division I game

Arizona Diamondbacks

New York Yankees.

Randy Johnson is reportedly

the central figure in a three-tea

trade that would send him to the

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NHL players association lashes out at league over latest rejection

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